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A REPORT ON A SERIES OF SITTINGS WITH  
THE MEDIUM MARGERY.

BY E. J. DINGWALL.

FOREWORD.

BEFORE dealing with my experiences of the Margery mediumship, I wish publicly to express my thanks to certain persons who rendered those experiences possible. Firstly then, I wish to thank Margery herself for so kindly permitting me to attend the sittings as a privileged guest, and also to F. H., the husband of the medium, I wish likewise to express my appreciation of his kindly hospitality. To Mrs. Augustus Hemenway also I must tender my sincerest thanks for her royal hospitality and kindness, without which this inquiry could never have been attempted. I also wish to acknowledge gratefully the encouragement, advice, and other help so freely given me by Dr. Elwood Worcester, Dr. Gardner Murphy, Dr. Mark Richardson, and others too numerous to mention.

It will be understood that the sittings to be described were placed by Dr. Crandon under my supervision, subject to certain agreed conditions which I will in due course describe.

## INTRODUCTION.

## PRELIMINARY.

The following report concerns a case of alleged physical mediumship, which is perhaps the most important of its kind hitherto presented for the consideration of psychical researchers. It first attracted my immediate attention on December 16, 1923, when the medium, Mrs. L. R. G. Crandon (hereafter called Margery) and her husband (hereafter called F. H.) visited London and held a sitting in my room at the Society for Psychical Research. At this sitting occurred a table levitation in full white light which was capable of but two interpretations. The first hypothesis was that the movement was due to some supernormal action, and the second was that it was caused normally by the medium, by her husband, by both in combination, or by one or more of the sitters. Now this levitation was very striking, and, if fraudulent, involved some skill in its performance. If supernormal, on the other hand, the phenomenon was important as an indication of remarkable incipient mediumship, and from that date I followed the case as far as I was able to do so from published accounts and from letters received at intervals from the United States. My interest in the case grew rapidly when I learnt that Margery had entered for the \$2500 prize offered by the *Scientific American* magazine. Throughout the summer of 1924 I had been trying to see whether arrangements could be made for me to visit the United States in order to call upon the medium and make a first hand acquaintance with the phenomena occurring in her presence. This was finally made possible through the great kindness and generosity of one of our Boston members, well known for her sustained and impartial interest in the scientific aspect of psychical research.

Before dealing with the sittings I attended, short biographical sketches of the parties concerned may be of interest, and for this purpose I have received permission

from F. H. to insert those supplied by him to the *Journal* of the A.S.P.R., March 1925.

Mina Stinson Crandon was born near Toronto and received her early training and education there. Her health and psychology have always been normal. She graduated with good standing in all her classes. She had one year of Latin and one year of French, but outside of that has studied no languages.

At about the age of seventeen she came to Boston and became secretary to one of the larger churches. She is married and has one child, and is in perfect health physically and mentally.

She was five years younger than her brother Walter, who passed over in 1911 at the age of twenty-eight years. He was injured by a locomotive and survived the injury only three hours.

In his youth Walter Stinson had tables tilt and levitate, in his presence, in daylight. This was looked on as a diversion and never taken seriously. His mother, who is still living, over seventy-five years of age, has been able for years to do automatic writing.

Since this mediumship began, Margery has continued to be in apparently perfect health and suffers some, but not great, reaction after sittings which involve deep trance and the so-called higher physical phenomena.

Dr. L. R. G. Crandon was born in Boston. His mother came from a healthy, energetic family from Maine; her brother was Rear-Admiral J. E. Pillsbury, U.S. Navy. Her father's family came from Plymouth, Mass., a direct descendant from twenty-three of the original *Mayflower* passengers. His great-grandfather was Collector of the Port of Plymouth for thirty years, appointed by Washington. His father is President of the Boston Ethical Society.

Dr. Crandon graduated from Harvard College in 1894, received his M.D. degree in 1898, and an A.M. from Harvard in Philosophy in 1909. He has been, and still is, in the practice of surgery in Boston. He is in no way psychic, but is deeply interested in the matter from the points of view of the physician, the psychologist, and the philosopher.

The early history of the Margery mediumship is described by Dr. Crandon in the same number of the *Journal* as follows :

Margery's husband first became interested in psychical research in 1923 when he read *On the Threshold of the Unseen*, by Sir William Barrett, and Crawford's four books on the reality of psychic phenomena.

About June 1, 1923, a rough wooden table without nails, after the specifications of Crawford, was made for the "Margery" household, and six people sat round it in red light as an experiment. Successful tilting was obtained almost at once, and by the simple process of elimination it was found to occur only in the presence of Margery, though she need not be in contact with the table. A code of communication with the possible operators was at once established, and apparent identity of several discarnate relatives of the people about the table was made out.

The mediumship developed rapidly, involving complete levitation of table in red light, and then appeared in rapid succession all the varieties of phenomena which occurred in the presence of the Reverend Stainton Moses, and others peculiar to this mediumship alone. This list includes the following categories, there being several varieties under each heading :

1. A great variety of raps, varying in force from the tap of a finger-nail to the kick of a heavy boot ;
2. Raps which answer questions coherently through a code of about eight words ;
3. Lights two to five inches in diameter shown to some or all sitters, pale, non-radiant, non-illuminating, extremely mobile ;
4. Scents of many odours, like perfumes, and one an apparent combination unlike any known to the sitters ;
5. Musical sounds—chimes, bugles, clock-bells, and other instruments, though none was in the room ;
6. Trance-writing in nine languages.
7. Movement of furniture, smashing of the cabinet, lifting the table with a sitter on it, balancing of unequally loaded scales with a celluloid cover ;
8. Passage of matter through matter ; the apport of roses and of a live pigeon ;

9. The direct independent voice of Walter, the control; proved to be independent by simple and fraud-proof methods;

10. The production of teleplasm in the red light, and flash-light photographs of it in the midst of red light; handling of these masses in red light by the sitters;

11. (Telekinesis) movements of luminous objects by the teleplastic terminals, visible to all sitters.

In July and August, 1923, trance appeared with trance-speaking and trance-writing, but stopped December 1, 1923, and was not seen again until January, 1925. December 1, 1923, and for the thirteen months following, all occurrences were without trance, the psychic talking freely and enjoying the sitting as well as the others. In September, 1923, the first efforts at independent voice were heard. This quickly became standardised into an easily heard loud whisper, coming mostly from the cabinet but repeatedly, for special guests, being heard in other parts of the room as far away as eight feet from the psychic: in other words, a truly independent voice, never automatic, in the opinion of constant observers. This direct independent voice made communication with Walter, the control, so easy that systematic development of the phenomena followed rapidly. Each sitting now presents, as it were, a cross section of the whole story of psychic research. The voice prophesies or promises the physical phenomenon, then, under test conditions, the thing occurs as promised. New physical experiments and tests are proposed to Walter, he discusses them with the sitters, he agrees with them as to what conditions should surround the tests and is, himself, apparently intrigued by new apparatus and pleased to get a hard problem.

The investigation of the *Scientific American* Committee<sup>1</sup> had begun in the spring of 1924, and owing principally to the action of one of its members much acrimonious discussion had arisen and the sittings had been suspended. This discussion was at its height when I arrived, and the medium and her husband appeared to be in a highly nervous condition.

Before detailing my experiences, I wish to give my impression of the principal characters. The medium,

<sup>1</sup>See *Scientific American*, July, August, November, 1924, and Mr. J. M. Bird's book *Margery* (Boston, 1925).

Margery, is a highly intelligent and charming young woman, exceedingly good natured and possessed of a fund of humour and courage which make her an ideal subject for investigation. Her husband is a hard-working and skilful surgeon, of wide reading, and possessing extensive knowledge of many social questions and problems. If Margery's mediumship is in fact fraudulent (and there is little, if any, direct evidence in support of such a supposition) it is, I think, practically certain that F. H. fully acquiesces, if he does not actively assist in the fraud. The deception (if such there be) could not possibly succeed without both his manual dexterity and his tenacity of purpose. The question of motive, in view of F. H.'s professional and social standing, is a difficult one. It would perhaps seem incredible that he should take part in a hoax, for any purpose inconsistent with what he considered the interests of scientific truth. It is, I think, however, just possible that a hoax designed to test the gullibility of observers, and to discredit what he might consider "Spiritualistic superstition" would appeal to his fervent rationalism.

To say that the Margery mediumship is one of the most important of its kind would be an understatement: it is, I think, *the* most remarkable hitherto recorded. For we have here not only alleged telekinetic and teleplastic phenomena, but also the occurrence of what is claimed to be a truly independent voice, which is heard throughout the sitting and which controls the phenomena, foretelling or promising a phenomenon, which in many cases is produced as promised.

But the difficulties of investigating it are correspondingly great: they can only be appreciated in full by those who have had practical experience of them. I did not succeed in achieving my primary purpose, of coming to a definite conclusion as to the genuineness or otherwise of the phenomena. During the course of the sittings the evidence seemed to me at one time for, and at another time against their supernormal nature, but never to incline decisively either way. It was always necessary to hold both hypotheses in view and to modify the procedure from

time to time according as one or other hypothesis appeared the more probable. In the Report that follows I have endeavoured to set out fairly and fully the facts as I saw them and to give the reasons which led me to waver in my views as to the nature of the phenomena, in the hope that this may be of assistance to future investigators.

These two hypotheses will in the rest of this Report be referred to as the "first" and the "second" hypothesis respectively, and at the risk of repetition I wish to emphasise the fact that whenever the results of any sitting are discussed on the basis or from the angle of either hypothesis, it must not be assumed that I, or any other sitters, in fact, accept that hypothesis as covering such results in the sense that the hypothesis is considered fully satisfactory in all essential particulars.

#### THE PRESENT INVESTIGATION.

Before detailing the general conditions obtaining at the sittings it may be found convenient to sketch briefly the position of the case when I arrived in Boston.

The investigation of the *Scientific American* magazine had reached a dead-lock. F. H. was strongly opposed to the members of the Committee, and although Professor McDougall had been a member of that Committee, the request that he should collaborate with Dr. Worcester and myself was readily granted by both F. H. and Margery, although I could see that their feelings had in no wise changed. It was also agreed that Dr. and Mrs. Mark Richardson should be occasional sitters, as they were friendly with Margery and her husband, and Dr. Richardson's position in Boston entitled him to respect.

Having arranged the personnel of the inquiry, the other conditions had to be discussed. Since the absence of any suitably equipped laboratory compelled me to accept the sittings in the house in Lime Street, where Margery lives, it was at once apparent that minor phenomena had to be discounted to a large extent. Although the room was open at all times to a search, it was so encumbered with furnishings that any feeling of certainty regarding its innocence had to be abandoned. The next great difficulty

arose regarding the control of the medium during the sittings. F. H. and Margery vehemently opposed a control of one of the medium's hands by one or other of my collaborators, and as it appeared useless to insist upon conditions disliked by the psychic at the very starting point of what might prove an excellent investigation, I examined their objections carefully and, after having what I considered confirmatory evidence from independent sources, I decided that the best plan was to sit quietly under the conditions approved of by the medium and await results. It was thus agreed that during many of the sittings I was to control the left hand of the medium and F. H. the right, but obviously for the purposes of flawless evidence this hand control of F. H. must be regarded as non-existent.

If it be asked for what purpose this laxity of control was permitted I should answer that it is of no use trying to investigate phenomena except under conditions which make their occurrence possible, and whether supernormal or not they are unlikely to occur under conditions displeasing to the medium. It may, therefore, be wise to begin with imperfect control which, when phenomena occur, it may be possible to improve. It may, moreover, happen that the phenomena that occur are of such a nature that demonstration of their genuineness or falsity does not depend on the weak point in the control. And it was in fact my primary aim to secure phenomena, the supernormality of which would be self-evident from their very nature.

## GENERAL ACCOUNT OF THE SITTINGS.

### THE SÉANCE ROOM.

The room used by Margery for the experiments was formerly a sort of lounge and book den at the top of the house. It measures approximately 18 feet 1 inch  $\times$  17 feet and is 9 feet high (5.48 m.  $\times$  5.18 m.  $\times$  2.74 m.). The accompanying diagram (Fig. 1) shows a rough plan of the room and general arrangements. D is a pair of doors



leading into the upper landing secured by a lock and turning upon hinges which permit the doors to swing clear of the floor by a wide margin. F is the fireplace, and on the mantelpiece is the lamp L, controlled by a rheostat R. This lamp consisted of a ruby bulb enclosed in a black tapering wooden box arrangement and over the front of the box were a few sheets of white tissue paper to diffuse

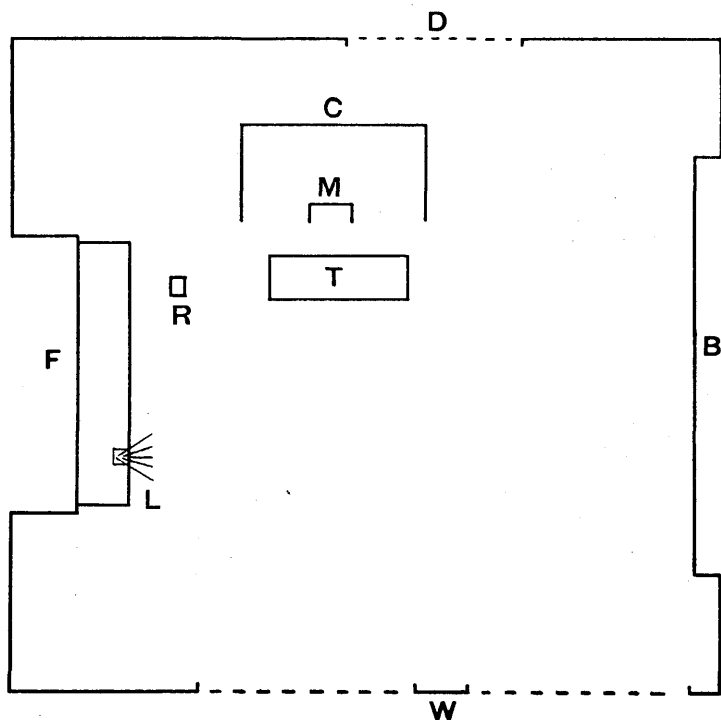


FIG. 1.

the light. C is the cabinet measuring 4 feet  $\times$  3 feet  $\times$  6 feet high (1.21 m.  $\times$  91 cm.  $\times$  1.82 m.), and M the medium's mahogany chair of Windsor pattern with arms. The legs were 19 inches square (48 cm.) on the floor, the side rungs being  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches (12 cm.) clear of the floor, and the front and back 8 inches (20 cm.). The thickness of the seat was  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches (3 cm.), its widest part  $21\frac{1}{4}$  inches (53 cm.), and deepest 17 inches (43 cm.). The back was just 22 inches high measured from the seat, and the weight over

13 lbs. (5·8 kg). "Domes of Silence" were fitted to each leg, and the chair was usually just within the cabinet, the back of which was about 3 feet 8 ins. (1·11 m.) from the doors. W indicates a row of windows looking on to Lime Street, and shaded with blinds and curtains, whilst B is a long book case filled with books occupying almost the entire length of the room. T is the séance table made of soft pine and measuring roughly 2 feet 6 inches  $\times$  1 foot 8 inches  $\times$  2 feet 3 inches high (76 cm.  $\times$  50 cm.  $\times$  68 cm.), before which Margery is usually seated, F. H.'s place being between her and the rheostat, R.

The cameras which were employed at the sittings were managed entirely by Mr. R. W. Conant, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and I wish here to record my thanks to him for so skilfully succeeding in a difficult task, and also to Mrs. Dennett through whose generosity materials were purchased and the use of a stereoscopic camera made possible.

#### CONDUCT OF THE SÉANCES.

Before dealing with the general method of conducting the séances, it will be here convenient to print as it stands and to analyse as far as is possible the conditions drawn up by F. H., which were demanded as a preliminary to my having any sittings at all. These conditions, which are exceedingly important when viewed in the light of our two hypotheses, were as follows:

(1) It is understood that the name "Walter" is applied to the personality which manifests in the séance room, purports to be the deceased brother of the medium, and operates as the "spirit control," without in any way binding any signer hereof to any particular interpretation of the true character of this personality.

It is agreed between the investigator and the doctor that:

(2) Neither the investigator nor any of his agents shall turn on any light in the séance room except with the prior knowledge and expressed consent of Walter.

(3) The investigator shall supply the doctor with a signed copy of his notes of each séance, before he attends the next séance.

(4) These notes shall, within the investigator's best memory, include every fact with relation to the phenomena and the accompanying circumstances which he regards as in any way important. This is not intended to imply that the investigator need say anything about causes in these notes; but it is understood nevertheless that if at the end of any séance he is convinced that he has discovered fraud, he must say so in his notes. The doctor understands that if there is in the investigator's mind merely the possibility of fraud, he is under no obligation to record this in his notes.

(5) Subject to Walter's approval, the investigator shall be in charge of the personnel and procedure at all séances; except that the doctor shall not be excluded without his consent, and that the investigator shall introduce no sitters without the doctor's approval.

Now, regarded superficially, these conditions appear to be reasonable, just, and carefully edited. Nos. 1 and 2 can at once be granted, but upon studying the others it is seen that they may facilitate simulated phenomena.

Thus if the phenomena are not supernormal, (3) gives the other parties full information as to the discoveries made by the investigator. For example, if a touch is experienced in the third séance, and the investigator remarks certain facts which lead him to suppose that a reaching rod is being employed, then these facts must become the property of one of the persons concerned in the manipulation of that rod *before the next sitting*. These persons can in this way keep themselves *au fait* with all the investigator's discoveries, and since they are virtually in entire charge of the sittings (notwithstanding clause 5) discovery of the methods employed is rendered absolutely impossible unless the phenomena are produced so crudely as to invite instant detection. Thus in my sittings I never detected anything that could positively be called fraud, and I think the majority of Margery's investigators are in the same position. It does not in the least follow, however, that because fraud is not detected it does not exist. It may well be that the conditions insisted on by the medium and her husband render that detection a virtual impossibility. On the other hand, it has been urged that F. H. has been

driven to make these conditions in order to safeguard the honour and safety of his wife and of himself, and in particular to prevent second thoughts being substituted for original impressions in the records of the sittings when signed by the observers.

In accepting these conditions I was fully cognisant of their shortcomings and of the criticisms which could so easily be levelled against them. But it seemed better to accept what was offered than to commence the series by objections and refusals. The fact that the séances were to be held in the medium's house, and that the medium's husband was often to be allowed to control her on one side, robbed them of so much evidential value that it did not seem worth while to insist upon what were, after all, less important details.

#### THE SITTINGS.

The sittings themselves I divide into two groups (*a*) what I shall call the official series at which were generally present as observers Professor McDougall, Dr. Elwood Worcester, and myself, and (*b*) the ordinary séances, which I shall call private sittings, where I was a friend assisting with others, but at which the control was slightly more rigid than that to which Margery had usually been accustomed.

The sittings are usually held in darkness. That this constitutes a grave weakness is obvious. Red light is permitted only at the dictation of the controlling voice,<sup>1</sup> which claims that periods of darkness are necessary for the purposes of incubation.

#### *Sitting I. (Private).*

December 30, 1924. 10 Lime Street, Boston. 8.55 p.m.

*Present* (in order of place commencing from Margery's right hand as she sits in the cabinet):<sup>2</sup> F. H.; Mrs. J. De Wyckoff; Dr. Mark Richardson; Mr. Fred Adler; Mr. J. De Wyckoff; Mrs. Richardson; E. J. D.; Mr. J. M. Bird sits just behind F. H. and Margery.

<sup>1</sup> This voice claims to be independent in the sense that it is not the medium who speaks.

<sup>2</sup> This order is kept throughout the following series of sittings.

This was a friendly group arranged for the occasion, so that I might have the opportunity of observing the general conditions of the sittings. The medium sat in the cabinet, and before her was placed the séance table already described on p. 88, whilst on the table was placed the bell box which had been introduced as a test apparatus by the *Scientific American* Committee.<sup>1</sup> This box was placed upon the table, its longer side parallel with the same side of the table and the opening of the flap facing F. H. Two small megaphones, one with a luminous band, stood at the right side of the medium's chair. These were  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches (27 cm.) high, the circumference of the larger ends being about 23 inches (57.5 cm.), and the smaller  $7\frac{1}{4}$  inches (18 cm.) respectively.

We commenced with darkness, and the voice and light whistling soon began. The control varied throughout the sitting; sometimes I had Margery's left hand and both feet, sometimes both hands and both feet, or again both hands and one foot. After about a quarter of an hour the bell rang, and this was done repeatedly both in darkness and red light. It also rang when I raised it from the table in red light, and continued ringing as I held it and moved it almost beyond the left hand wing of the cabinet. When the red light was on I remarked that the flap was lowered beyond its normal level, and when the bell rang the flap did not seem to be depressed but merely shivered.

<sup>1</sup> See J. M. Bird, *op. cit.*, pp. 287-292; 392-404; 469-484. This device, the details of which had already undergone many changes, was of the simplest possible construction. It consisted essentially of a padlocked box containing a battery and electric bell, which could only be rung normally by pressure upon a hinged flap upon the top, which was furnished with the necessary contacts, and was normally held apart by a long steel spring screwed to the top of the box. The box was made of stained pine and measured 14 inches (35 cm.)  $\times$   $8\frac{1}{4}$  inches (21 cm.)  $\times$   $5\frac{1}{4}$  inches (13 cm.) high; the flap was of unpolished soft pine and measured 8 inches (20 cm.) square. The contacts were of copper and the steel spring measured  $7\frac{3}{4}$  inches (20 cm.) long. This spring had been substituted for another spiral spring, which had apparently been formerly used and which had been loosely placed under the board. The flap had previously been fastened to the base on the top of the box by a velvet strip, which had been detached several times as fresh experiments had been made. The whole apparatus weighed about 8 lbs., (36 kg.), and a brass lock and Yale padlock completed the outfit.

A voice was also heard from apparently inside one of the megaphones which was raised and touched my nose, and soon afterwards Mrs. Richardson experienced a touch upon her right arm and shoulder, whilst almost immediately I did the same. It seemed like the gentle pressure of two fingers, the distance from the medium being about two feet.

The phenomena at this sitting were typical of the ordinary occurrences with Margery's mediumship. We have (1) the voice, (2) telekinetic movements both connected with the voice and independent of it, (3) action at a distance in darkness and red light, and (4) touches. Disregarding the voice for the moment, we have mainly telekinetic movements of the megaphone and the ringing of the bell box which can be considered together. A great weakness in the conduct of the Margery sittings is the insistence of periods of darkness by the control. Assuming genuineness, this may be explicable on the assumption that since the mediumship was developed along these lines it was difficult to change it. But on the second hypothesis of trickery such periods of darkness provide intervals not of incubation but of preparation, so that the observers can finally see the presentation of a finished phenomenon. It was apparent to me at this first sitting that this difficulty would be almost insurmountable for two reasons. Firstly, if the phenomena were genuine, the training involved before the darkness could be dispensed with would probably take up the whole available time at my disposal, and secondly, if they were produced by trickery, the suggestion would be resisted and further difficulties would arise. The methods of dealing with such suggestions by F. H. and Margery are of some interest. The medium will, as a general rule, accept any control or any suggestion within reason, but at the same time she reserves to herself the right of disclaiming responsibility for any negative results that may ensue, asserting that it is the control Walter and not herself who produces the phenomena, and that he must be consulted and not she. This is reasonable if the phenomena are in fact genuine, but if they are fraudulent the device constitutes a convenient method of escape, as when pressed by suggestions which are distasteful to him, Walter either makes promises which are never fulfilled, or turns the thing into a joke with a series of droll witticisms, at which

he is both skilled and highly amusing. During the course of the sittings I tried a number of these experiments, and the results may prove instructive when viewed from the angle either of belief or scepticism. In the present sitting the period of darkness prevailed before the ringing of the bell and at intervals after it. The most impressive phenomenon was the touch on my shoulder. Although I constantly asked the control for further examples of touching, this was the one occasion only upon which such phenomena occurred. The ringing of the bell box in red light was good, and had I intended to continue its use, I should have made a complete study of it. But the apparatus was too clumsy to be of any particular service and little information could have been obtained from its use.

*Sitting II. (Official).*

January 1, 1925. 10 Lime Street. 8.25 p.m.

*Present* (in order from medium's right hand): F. H.; Dr. E. Worcester (W.); Professor McDougall (M.); E. J. D.

This was the first of the official series. A small family group had sat the night before, but with negative results. For the purpose of control over the medium's head, hands, and ankles, she wore a luminous disc on her forehead attached to a tape tied round her head, and luminous wristlets made out of broad elastic around her wrists, similar rings being placed around her ankles.

The phenomena at this sitting consisted mainly of table movements. Some of these were striking and difficult to account for normally, assuming the existence of control of both hands and feet of the medium. Nothing, however, occurred which deserves comment at any length. Both before, during, and after this séance, Margery appeared unwell and depressed.

*Sitting III. (Official).*

January 2, 1925. 10 Lime Street. 8.42 p.m.

*Present*: As in Sitting II. and same order.

It had been arranged that at the conclusion of every sitting the notes should be compiled by the observers, F. H. acting as amanuensis for the group. In the following sitting these notes

will be printed as they were written except that here and there some minor alterations have been made for the sake of clarity.

The general conditions were the same as before, except that the medium had discarded a portion of her garments and was clothed in a thick woollen bath-robe and stockings. Luminous letters pinned on the cuffs of F. H. and E. J. D. were for the purpose of allowing M. and W. to see the approximate positions of their hands. Hands were joined round the circle.

On the table were placed a twelve-cymbaled tambourine with a luminous T painted upon the membrane; a ukulele with a luminous U painted upon it on one side; a small luminous ring about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter, and a black handkerchief upon which was painted a crude representation of a grinning face in luminous paint, which had been named by the previous circle the "Houdini Handkerchief."

The following is the record of the sitting made by F. H. by dictation from the group:

Phenomena began with vague noises apparently caused by some of the objects on the table. The luminous T and ring were occluded several times by what seemed to be an opaque object passing above them. Dr. W.'s hand was touched by a hard object, which appeared to be the handle of the ukulele. Tambourine was raised a few inches into the air, fell on Dr. W.'s hand, and rested there for some five minutes. Houdini handkerchief moved slightly, and part of it apparently rested over the ukulele. Ukulele was raised some eight inches above the table; it appeared first to lie flat in air, then to stand upright, so that the U was clearly visible. Houdini handkerchief was moved so that the features showed motion; mouth appeared to open three times (Dr. W.). Ukulele raised into air, vertically, handle downwards, facing McD. and D. at west judged that handle was clear of table. Then slightly turned round, and twanged in the air, Psyche (F. H.'s name for the medium) complained of pain in right arm and side, described in terms of biting sensation. Followed by pain in side; then trance. Three phases of trance, with revivals of consciousness between. During trance;



ukulele twanged certainly, and probably moved somewhat. Short trance period with no action; pause in séance at 10.30.

Pause lasted about five minutes. Slight rustlings on table and movements of Houdini handkerchief. Followed by tippings of table away from Psyche towards Dr. W. Followed by complete levitation of table. During movements of table in some cases it was noticed that luminous bands about Psyche's ankles and wrists were motionless; and Dr. W. reports that he controlled the right leg of F. H., which was not in contact with the table. Levitation of table involved apparent lifting, horizontally, into air to a minimum height of six inches, all legs off floor. West end then rose higher, four feet from floor; red light turned on and table found resting on the psychic's knee and shoulder, top at angle of some 45 degrees with horizontal, lower legs at least 14 inches off floor. Uncertain whether resting naturally or not. Light off almost at once. Table descended, at first slowly, then with bang on floor. Table tilted towards Dr. W., came down heavily on its side; then slowly and intermittently raised back into normal position. Light turned on and table found nearly horizontal, resting on arms of D.'s chair. Light off at once. Table tilted towards east, falling upon F. H.'s foot heavily.

Conversation with Walter about future arrangements. Closed at 11.5.

Control: Luminous bands sewn on wrists of Psyche's bath robe and on stockings, about ankles. White tape about forehead, in centre of which sewn a luminous disc. Luminous D on lower right sleeve of D., luminous C on lower left sleeve of F. H. Psyche's right foot, shoeless, resting on F. H.'s left foot, according to his report; and her left foot according to D.'s, under his shoeless foot, except for a few seconds when coming out of trance. A cushion was placed in front of the psychic on the floor upon which her feet were placed. Hands held on either side.

(Signed) E. J. DINGWALL.  
ELWOOD WORCESTER.  
W. McDUGALL.

The phenomena occurring at this sitting were mainly of the telekinetic variety, and the opaque object which was seen to pass over the luminous T upon the tambourine and over the ring indicated that some material structure was at work. During the first part of the sitting the medium fell into what may be called trance, assuming that this was not simulated. The head fell back and the body became limp, these states alternating between different periods of apparent consciousness. The movements of the table were very curious, and are difficult to account for on normal grounds. Had F. H. not been present, and had the medium's feet and hands been adequately controlled on either side, it would have been difficult to escape from regarding these movements as supernormal. It is clear from the record that the only hands and feet that we can reasonably consider partially available were F. H.'s left hand and left foot and Margery's right hand and right foot. The luminous anklet rendered any extensive use of her right foot difficult, and similarly the luminous C on F. H.'s left cuff prevented too free use of his left hand unless the hand had been altogether withdrawn from the sleeve.

*Sitting IV. (Private).*

January 4, 1925. 273 Clarendon Street, Boston. 9.5 p.m.

*Present* (in order from medium's right): F. H.; Mrs. Augustus Hemenway; Dr. Mark Richardson; Mr. Augustus Hemenway; Mrs. Mark Richardson; E. J. D.

This was a sitting held away from the medium's house in the Boston residence of Mr. and Mrs. Augustus Hemenway. A room had been chosen which was partially empty, and a rude cabinet made out of a three-winged screen erected with its back to the window. Over the screen a black silk gown had been flung; the room darkened; a thick red paper shade placed over the electric lamp, and the victrola put outside the door and connected to an electric motor. A plain painted table similar in size to that at Lime Street stood in front of the cabinet. The medium wore wristlets, anklets, and head disc as usual. F. H. and E. J. D. also wore wristlets. The other sitters wore no bands. On the table were the luminous ring, tambourine, and ukulele. F. H.'s record reads thus;

Walter came through in a few minutes and had a more or less lengthy conversation with Mr. Dingwall as to the details of the next few sittings. He promised something so unprecedented and amazing that we were quite overwhelmed by it. He gave us instructions, however, not to put this promise on paper, or to tell anyone. He then gave minute details as to what to do and what not to do on this great occasion, and then went on to the work of the evening.

The control was by means of the illuminated bands on wrists of everyone [this is incorrect, see above] and on ankles of Psyche and her head also (as before). Under these conditions, with all hands obviously inert, Walter lifted the tambourine and ukulele from six to fourteen inches many times. He did a lot of work with the table, in the way of tilting and levitation, and best of all, allowed Mr. Dingwall to hold up his thumb on edge of table, whereupon Walter put the centre of the tambourine, balancing it thus on the thumb perfectly on request of Mr. Dingwall. Mr. Dingwall was then allowed to hold the tambourine in one hand, and Walter then pulled on it and twisted it in any directions asked by Mr. Dingwall. Mr. Dingwall said this he had tried for in many places all over the world, but never before had it. The pull he estimated at two and one half to five pounds.

Sitting closed at 11.55 p.m.

As before the sitting represents a fair specimen of Margery's mediumship. Moreover, the séance shows good progress when regarded from the point of view of the first hypothesis. Certain manipulations of a ring and of the tambourine showed no dexterity, although the levitation of the former was quite impressive. At one time the tambourine rose near the corner of the table nearest to the medium's left hand, which I was controlling. It rose some inches above the surface of the table; then it moved towards the edge, sank beneath the projecting end and remained apparently suspended, having passed over the medium's hand and mine during its movement. This incident remains the most interesting of all the examples of

alleged telekinetic phenomena that I witnessed with Margery, although the attempts to balance the ring on the end of my finger were also curious, and only succeeded after repeated attempts. The tambourine appeared to be held fairly rigidly, and although I have many times tried to experiment on levitated objects alleged to be supported by supernormal structures, I never succeeded to the extent that seemed possible at the sitting. I tried on the tambourine, pull, push and torsion, it seemed as if it were held by some elastic structure, and my sensation was similar to the one I experienced with another medium under better conditions of control. The experiments with the ring also were highly instructive, supplemented as they were by the more advanced series with the tambourine. It would appear that, upon the first hypothesis, the supporting structures were being manipulated with but slight skill, and upon the second that the appearances were being cunningly simulated to give the observers the impression of clumsy manipulation.

The conversation with Walter at the commencement of the sitting was obviously inspired by my own plans which I had partially discussed with F. H. These plans centred around the observation of the actual mechanism of telekinesis. Walter promised assistance in this respect, and his promise was connected with an attempt to show us the complete emergence and subsequent disappearance of the teleplastic substance. I of course supported him in this and discussed it in some detail; a point which it may prove useful to remember in dealing with the succeeding sittings. It must be remembered that, as I said before, it was my primary aim to secure phenomena, the supernormality of which would be self-evident from their very nature. The appearance of living, mobile substance emerging from the body of the medium, followed by the subsequent formations of definite shapes out of an amorphous mass would fulfil these expectations to a very considerable extent.

The chief question which now occupied my immediate attention was the best attitude with which to approach such phenomena. It appeared to me that some sort of

hypothesis would have to be adopted. The attitude of suspended judgment is one which, viewed in its proper aspect, seems the reasonable one to adopt in nearly all of the debatable questions with which science is called upon to deal. But as working hypothesis it is often ill-adapted to the purposes of psychical research. For example, such an attitude is often irritating to the sensitive subject, who fails to understand the reasons for which it has been adopted. Hence it appeared to me that it might be as well to take either the first or the second hypothesis as the working hypothesis, and then see how the facts supported the theory as development proceeded. After taking full account of the previous history of the mediumship, the personalities of the medium and her husband, and any other facts that seemed to me relevant, I decided to adopt the first hypothesis to work on.

In the succeeding sittings I hope to show how far the result of the séances fulfilled my expectations. It will be indicated how the phenomena developed along orderly and progressive lines; how at times the probability of the first hypothesis became so strong that it seemed likely that it would prove a "true" interpretation of the facts; how the development ceased just when a continuation would have led to decisive results, and how finally every crucial test failed.

*Sitting V. (Private).*

January 5, 1925. 10 Lime Street. 9.10 p.m. 10.30 p.m.

*Present:* W.; Dr. M. Richardson; Mrs. Richardson; D.

This was a sitting at which F. H. was not present, and at which the victrola was not played. I had hoped to obtain silhouettes of the telekinetic structures, and for this purpose had prepared a sheet of cardboard with luminous paint, which I secured with a couple of stout thumb tacks to the end of the table facing myself and at right angles to the medium. There was also a luminous strip upon the top of the table along the edge nearest the medium and also along the edge of the two ends. The medium wore luminous wristlets, anklets, and head disc as before. Dr. Worcester controlled the right hand and right foot, whilst I controlled the left hand and left

foot. The phenomena obtained at this sitting were exceedingly interesting. The absence of F. H. was, from the evidential point of view, an improvement, and consequently phenomena, which with his presence would have to be discounted, were impressive and important.

The first occurrence which attracted my attention was the bending of the cardboard apparently from its medial line and along its entire length towards myself. I noticed this once, and upon its repetition asked W. not to bend over the table as he was bending the board. He replied that he was a foot away from the edge of the table and had not touched the cardboard. The movements of the cardboard occurred at intervals throughout the sitting and there were also a series of extremely puzzling table movements. The sitting closed at 10.30 p.m.

This séance was one of the most important of the entire series, and suggested the authenticity of the phenomena. Under the conditions obtaining at this sitting I found it difficult to imagine any normal method for moving the cardboard, and wished that further opportunities might have been presented to study it. The board bent along its entire length, and its thickness was such that pressure at one corner would scarcely have been sufficient thus to affect it. We must assume a uniform pressure along the surface near its upper edge, but how this could have been successfully applied I am at a loss to imagine. Similarly the movements of the table were difficult to explain even assuming that one foot was free, which W. stated was not the case upon his side, and I feel fairly certain was not the case on mine. Confederacy on the part of W. and Mr. and Mrs. Richardson I can scarcely entertain, and the phenomena appeared to be evidential, although obviously too slight to be conclusive. At any rate the results would have to be seriously considered before the validity of the second hypothesis could be accepted. In this case one must assume that some adroit manipulation of a rod or some such piece of apparatus held between the medium's teeth was responsible for the movements of the cardboard, and that the medium's use of one foot for two sufficed to free one foot in order to manipulate the table. Even then I am not sure that one foot was capable of moving the table to the extent which

we observed. Although the opportunities afforded at a single sitting were not sufficient to justify any positive statements on the matter, I should have been inclined to the supposition that these phenomena were indeed supernormal had not subsequent events compelled me provisionally to substitute the hypothesis of trickery for that of genuineness. Whatever their explanation (and if trickery were employed it was probably very simple), the events of this sitting were certainly startling, and if not supernormal indicated great subtlety and shrewdness.

*Sitting VI. (Official).*

January 6, 1925. 10 Lime Street. 8.40 p.m. 10.20 p.m.

*Present:* F. H.; M.; W.; D.

The control was as before, but F. H. wore another coat with a luminous band sewn on the left cuff. On the table was a mechanical press bell, upon the knob of which was fastened a cork and on the top of this a luminous disc. There were also two luminous rings, one larger (A) than the other (B), and a small basket with handle and white tissue paper inside. There were four luminous pins at the top corners of the basket. The sitting was in darkness except when indicated in the account.

I had introduced the bell and basket for special reasons. The use of the bell was to provide a convenient method of observing whether an alleged psychic structure was capable of ringing it, and if so, additional evidence might be obtained by the occlusion of the luminous disc, since the only means of ringing the bell normally was by striking the press button or striking the bell itself. In the latter case the sound differed materially from that made in the former. The basket had been introduced to discover how far such light objects could be successfully manipulated, and later to try various experiments also with weights inside the basket, but these were never attempted.

The following is the official record as dictated after the sitting.

Variation in control this evening, F. H. wearing another coat and a broad luminous band on his left wrist. On the table: mechanical bell, to knob of which fastened a

cork, on top of this a luminous disc. Two round luminous rings, one larger (A) than other (B). Little basket with handle and inside some white tissue paper. Four luminous pins on top corners of basket.

Phenomena began by (A) being slightly tipped up, it being uncertain whether caused by current of air or some other cause. Then Walter asked D. and W. to move nearer the table. Soon after this he asked D. to place his hand, palm upwards, Psyche's hand holding his wrist, on the surface of the table towards the centre of edge facing medium. After a few moments D. felt a cold, viscous, clammy material just touch the nail of his middle finger, which was slightly raised above the table. This touch was almost immediately followed by another on the ball of the same finger. Then by similar touches over a larger surface of fingers and hand. The substance resembled a cold damp tongue, which sometimes appeared to thicken at the end and exert pressure. This pressure was not as if the whole material were exercising it, but as if a harder object were covered with a clammy shell, and the pressure were being exerted by it through the shell (D.). M. put hand across table with Walter's permission; felt something like a cold hand flapped on back of his hand, three or four times. W. would say that it rested on his hand toward end of his fingers, was drawn across his fingers; would compare it to feeling of piece of cold raw beef or possibly piece of soft, wet rubber. He should also add that the impact was distinctly audible as well as tangible. M. verifies this.

All drew hands away and relaxed; Walter asked D. to put hand on table as previously. Same tongue-like structure was then repeatedly drawn over surface of hand, and by permission he closed his hand twice over it. It curled up easily within his hand and withdrew itself with sinuous slithering movement. It appeared to D. to be a little drier than formerly. D. then asked Walter whether the substance could touch his knuckle; on affirmative answer, he turned his hand over and what seemed to be a larger piece of the substance covered first of all his fingers and then the back of his hand. Withdrawing itself, it almost



immediately again covered his hand with sharp slap; and its end appeared to extend beyond his hand on to ring (A), the latter being flipped across the table on to the floor. Sound of slap mentioned was distinctly audible. Visible as it fell across ring. As heard to fall, M. saw what might have been long flabby finger fall rapidly across ring, rapidly withdraw, dragging ring off table.

W. now put his hand over toward that corner of the table. Back of hand struck smartly twice. This time he received impression that substance was more massive, covering a larger portion of his hand and appearing to be heavier. He would make it plain that this phenomenon occurred to him twice; first time, on side of table toward D.; second time, when M. and W. retained their contact, their hands being toward opposite side of table.

Walter then asked for luminous plaque [*i.e.* cardboard]. This was placed standing upright on the bent edge. D. then observed after few moments a movement of the edge of plaque near Psyche. Followed by a mass of black substance resembling about two inches of the end of a mittened hand. This projected and withdrew several times; finally the mitten-like hand appeared to be sliding across the surface of the table and then rose up against the luminous plaque, showing itself as a curved shape with slight crook at end. Almost exactly resembling the hand structure photographed with Stanislaw P.

W. could only describe (didn't see so much because of position) an object with a stealthy gliding motion, apparently along surface of table, at right lower corner of plaque. This advanced and receded several times; he could only describe colour as dark grey or greyish black.

M. while plaque was vertical, saw merely vague opaque object of rounded form covering lower and distant edge of plaque.

While basket was standing on front of plaque, mass of substance crept toward it with a clearly audible sound flicked basket out of way. It went into Psyche's lap. The plaque was brought or fell into horizontal position. M. saw very distinctly black object creeping over its far edge. D. had asked that it divide itself; M. now saw

rounded blunt edge of the opaque object projecting and withdrawing over edge of plaque; then became distinctly divided, really looked like very large, clumsy fingers close together, one a little apart from the others. Then he saw it again; complicated shape, but saw it briefly and cannot describe in detail. Like eccentric finger shadows.

Short rest period; plaque itself upon which basket had been placed then began to move. Then rose into air  $2\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Remained floating for a few seconds, followed by oscillations, undulations, movement to and fro. In spite of these movements little basket remained on the plaque, though one might have supposed it would be dislodged (W.). While this agitation was going on Walter asked why it had not been made firmer. It then descended slowly on the table. While floating it had moved nearer to F. H.'s hand, holding Psyche's left.

M. now suggested change in control. Plaque had been making few movements up and down, projecting over Psyche's edge of table. Therefore, he short-circuited F. H., taking their two hands under his left. Worcester at the same time short-circuited M. to control F. H.'s hands on M.'s side. Further plaque movements now occurred. Lifting of Psyche's end, and certain amount of to and fro movement. Rustling noise; plaque gave further movements, finally towards M.'s arm, not far. After a conversation with control sitting closed at 10.20.

(Signed) E. J. DINGWALL.

W. McDOUGALL.

ELWOOD WORCESTER.

This sitting was an important one when considered from the point of view of what had preceded it. Assuming the validity of the first hypothesis it is what might have been expected. We saw in the previous sitting in Clarendon Street how objects were seized and held as if by elastic structures intelligently directed. Here the structures became themselves visible and tangible. Teleplastic telekinetics were exemplified in a manner hitherto unrecorded in the history of psychical research. The reasons given by the control for this progress was that until then it was

not safe to exhibit these higher phenomena in the unsatisfactory conditions of the previous investigations. The substance itself can obviously be compared with that observed with other mediums, as, for example, Miss Kathleen Goligher and Mlle. Eva Carrière. The slithering tongue-like fins were similar to the rude claw-like terminals occasionally seen with Willy Schneider, and in this respect Margery's mediumship resembles his rather than that of Eva, whose alleged teleplastic faculties were directed rather towards artistic formations than towards mechanical work.

The second hypothesis (*i.e.* of trickery) must now be considered in the light of the official record printed above. For the present it must suffice to call the alleged teleplastic material the "substance," postponing for the present all discussion as to whether it was a normal or supernormal product and as to its nature.

Now we must remember that, as there was no searching of either the medium or her husband, it was possible for either the one or the other or both to bring certain articles into the séance room. Since also the right hand of the medium and the left hand of F. H. must be considered free, actions could be performed by them just as far as the luminous bands sewn on their cuffs permitted when the sleeves were pulled up the arm out of the way, or F. H.'s arm, and even Margery's, withdrawn altogether. That is to say that, assuming F. H.'s sleeve were pulled up, or his arm entirely freed from it, then Margery, by holding her wrist near his arm just above the elbow would give him plenty of opportunity to manipulate any object either directly or by means of a device such as forceps or similar instrument.

Now, when my hand was lying on the table palm upwards, all that had to be done was for F. H. or Margery to touch my middle finger with some object covered with a layer of the substance. We have no right to assume that all these appearances *were the same object*. There may have been half-a-dozen different objects, the only point of similarity being that they were all covered with or encased in the substance. Assuming that a strip of

the substance was held in the jaws of a long forceps all the flickings and slaps are easily explained, and when the "long flabby finger" dragged the ring off the table its weight and clammy surface would have easily been capable of doing it. The clumsy hand which lay across the luminous cardboard sheet and resembled eccentric finger shadows is more difficult to account for normally, although it seems to me possible that it might be said that the appearance was due to F. H.'s hand encased in some rough glove-like sheath. The levitation of the basket on the cardboard was most impressive, and it is difficult to assign any normal cause which could be considered reasonable. It is perhaps possible that it was supported by a flat surface attached to the end of a forceps and controlled by F. H. or conceivably by F. H.'s own hand, and the change in the control, when the hands of both F. H. and Margery were controlled by M. suggests that the more feeble movements of the cardboard which projected over the edge of the table facing the medium were produced by a rod device manipulated by the medium's mouth. The rustling noise might well have been the rod as it scraped over the surface of the plaque, but all such explanations must obviously be only tentative. Whatever may be thought of the results of applying the second hypothesis to the sitting, it is clear that some such theories *must* be held if the occurrences are to be described on normal grounds. Moreover, the progress in the phenomena would have to be ascribed to a cunning plan by F. H. and Margery, by which it was hoped to ensnare the observers by simulating just such an advance as they might be expected to anticipate. As I was still working on the first hypothesis I naturally did not suggest to F. H. any of these unpleasant reflections. If the phenomena were supernormal they would, I thought, prove themselves, or otherwise they would break down under the moderate tests I determined to apply.

*Sitting VII. (Official).*

January 7, 1925. 10 Lime Street. 8.55 p.m.

*Present*: F. H.; Dr. M. Richardson; W.; Mrs. Richardson; D.

At this sitting the development proceeded as before. The substance was now visible for some seconds in the red light, and it was repeatedly handled by all present. The number of observations were many, and the notes dictated at the end of the sitting somewhat incomplete.

On the table there were placed the two luminous rings, the little basket and the bell. Darkness was the general rule except when the Control asked for red light to display the substance. The following is the record of the sitting:

In ten minutes rustling in Psyche's lap. *Mr. D.*: Thought a mass of substance was in Psyche's lap. Walter then directed my palm to be put up on middle of table, near the edge. Then for five minutes—palm struck by cool, clammy apparently disc-like object; on repeated flicks being given to my hand, I noticed that the shape of the object was constantly changing. It appeared to lengthen and to widen, and occasionally parts appeared to be thickened, as if some internal mechanism was causing a swelling in parts of the mass. At times two distinct pressures at least were felt, the sensation being as if crude, clammy, unformed fingers were pressing both the lower portions of my fingers, and also the upper at the same time. This pressure was sometimes increased to  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -3 pounds, and when the substance was drawn from the hand it always appeared to be slightly viscous, a phenomenon which was later clearly demonstrated with relation to the smaller luminous ring. W. then asked me to put my hand beneath the table behind the mass, which was lying on the surface as far as two inches from the top. I felt a loose, clammy, skin-like appendage which, proceeding from the mass on the table, appeared to curl away towards Psyche's right side.

*Dr. Worcester*: My observations begin from permission to advance my hand under Mr. D.'s. I felt the end of my fingers smartly struck by a substance already described, and it seemed to me not so cold as last night. The

substance rested across the back of my hand for a perceptible length of time. It gently withdrew and returned—apparently in somewhat greater volume.

*Mrs. Richardson*: My wrist held by Mr. D. I put my fingers on table near Psyche. Mass rested on back of my four fingers. It felt like ice-cold, uncooked liver. It was withdrawn and replaced twice. It left a lasting sensation on my fingers.

*Dr. Richardson*: My hand was palm down on table. Ends of fingers were flicked by this material. My experience was that of Dr. W., but perhaps less in degree.

The Psyche now went into trance. The mass was now visible on the table on account of the large ring near F. H. Walter then asked red light (low) for five seconds (arranged beforehand for the purpose).

*Mr. D.* saw lying on the table near the edge near Psyche near east end, a mass of greyish white substance, which seemed like back of an armadillo. It seemed to be perhaps two inches thick and curved down in all directions towards the surface of the table.

*Dr. Worcester*: I saw the same mass, graying, somewhat rounded—less clearly than Mr. D. saw it.

F. H. saw the same—like half a human brain—not smooth on surface.

*Mr. D.*: After a few minutes darkness Walter asked me to feel the substance and note a hole like a gullet at the base of the cord leading to Psyche. From this he said he drew power to move objects—a statement I asked him to explain later. I first put my hand on the top of the substance. It was soft, clammy, and cold. I then lowered my hand, and noted that where the cord joined the mass there appeared to be a sort of skinny frill about half-inch high. Beneath this was the neck from which the cord hung, and in this neck I felt the depression into which, at Walter's request, I pushed my forefinger. It was soft and cool like the rest of the substance, but it did not extend so far as quarter inch. While this was being done, Psyche groaned each time.

Relaxation. Then ten seconds of brighter red light.

*Mr. D.*: I saw extended on the table from the edge near

Psyche from one inch from middle line of table a long, knobby, greyish white shape like a crudely formed right hand—the thumb being merely a mass of substance joining the main mass. All agree.

After another relaxation, the mass struck top of table violently. The basket was flicked over and the small ring (B) raised in the air—and then seen apparently sticking to end of structure—with great speed. The blow was like a seal's flipper. At D.'s request, plaque was put on table at east end, luminous side towards D.

*Mr. D.:* Against it I saw a mitten-like structure creeping forward at side near Psyche, and plaque was turned on its back. Its surface was now flicked several times and its end was curled. The structure had changed its shape; a long tongue-like projection, five inches long and one inch broad, now extended from main mass, which also had no longer a clear outline, but was broken up irregularly like amputated fingers. As structure was thrown about there were convulsive movements of both forearms of Psyche. All agreed to this description.

*Mr. D.:* I now remember that earlier in the sitting I was allowed to hold the mass and press it. It was cool and clammy as before, readily yielding, but with a tendency to withdraw slightly towards Psyche—who groaned slightly.

The bell was put on plaque, the mass was thrown over it. The bell rang. The top with luminous cork attached itself to the substance and was lifted. Walter laughed.

While these experiments were on Dr. W. and D. held two corners of plaque—at Walter's request.

Control as before described. During first five minutes of sitting slight forearm twitching.

During trance Walter continued to speak and spoke a great deal. Closed 10.20. Walter told us to expose Psyche to no white light, but let her rest in dark for fifteen minutes.

(Signed) E. J. DINGWALL.

ELWOOD WORCESTER.

MARK W. RICHARDSON.

JOSEPHINE L. RICHARDSON.

L. R. G. CRANDON.

This sitting was very similar to that on the previous day, and the same considerations can be applied to it when viewed in the light of the second hypothesis. Now, as before, we must assume the same possibility of freedom of action on the part of F. H. and Margery, and also the existence of several masses of substance or objects covered by it. The temptation of supposing that these objects were all one and that the change of shape was due to some process of growth must be steadily resisted. Such processes can be simulated, and indeed must be assumed to have been simulated in instances to be discussed later. Certainly no mere mass of substance can exert pressure as described above. This pressure may just have been an illusion on my part, but if real, such pressure can easily be obtained if the jaws of a forceps are covered in a layer of substance, and the impression of palpable fingers becomes highly realistic. Moreover, the flicks described could have been given by different objects, thus causing the recipient to assume change of shape in the same object. In order to illustrate my meaning somewhat more fully, I will show in parallel columns how the second hypothesis can receive support from the official record. Let us assume that F. H. and Margery bring in (1) a good forceps with jaws covered with a thick layer of the substance, which being of animal membrane will be cool and can easily be made slippery and moist by the use of saliva; (2) a piece of the substance cut round into a disc-like shape; (3) several pieces cut like sheep's tongues; (4) a round mass of substance, either solid or possibly inflated; (5) a rudely formed "hand" made out of the substance.

In ten minutes rustling in  
Psyche's lap.

Then for five minutes left  
palm struck by cool, clammy,  
apparently disc-like object.  
The shape of the object was  
constantly changing.

F. H. puts substance in her  
lap and it is moved about.

No. 2 used for flicking and  
substituted for 3 occasionally.



Crude, clammy, unformed fingers were pressing both the lower portions of my fingers.

A mass of greyish white substance which seemed like the back of an armadillo.

The cord, long knobby greyish white shape, like a rudely formed hand.

After another relaxation . . description (see page 109).

No. 1 is now used with good effect.

Nos. 1-3 are withdrawn. No. 4 now put on the table.

A tube joined to the medium and probably held between her legs. No. 5 is now displayed.

This phenomenon can be understood if it is assumed that No. 5 is now manipulated by Margery. The violent movements of the forearm suggest that this was possible. The viscous nature of the membrane (due perhaps to saliva) would be sufficient to raise the ring, and the cork of the bell.

From the above it will be seen that stripped of its glamour the sitting can be regarded in the light of the second hypothesis without too many unfounded assumptions. To the question whether such things are *possible* the only answer that can truthfully be given is that they are, and anyone with some practice can reproduce these phenomena. On the other hand, there is nothing in the account which does violence to the first hypothesis beyond the extreme improbability of the whole affair. Moreover, since similar phenomena, although far less fine in quality, have been observed with other mediums under conditions of control which seem to me to exclude trickery, there was no question that the occurrence might be in very truth what the medium and her husband claimed that they were.

It appeared to me folly to interrupt the series and possibly obtain no further phenomena. The first hypothesis was giving results hitherto unrecorded. If progress were maintained, then the phenomena would soon be self-evident apart altogether from the presence of F. H. and his relation to the medium.

*Sitting VIII. (Official).*

January 8, 1925. 10 Lime Street. 8.47 p.m.

*Present:* F. H.; M.; W.; D.

This sitting continued the orderly progress of those on January 6 and January 7. The situation had been discussed with F. H. and Margery, as I was feeling my way towards ascertaining their views upon the whole question. Walter had already promised us the phenomena of visible extrusion, and reabsorption, and as such occurrences would be better observed with the medium in black tights or similar garb I had raised this question. Unfortunately these tights were objected to on the ground that the materialised substance would fail to pass through them, a theory in flat contradiction with results observed with other mediums. Instead of tights F. H. and Margery suggested a loose bath-robe and stockings as appropriate garments for the sittings. This would give free play to the extruding substance, which could emerge from between the folds of the robe and thence proceed on to the surface of the table. This was one of the most remarkable sittings that I have ever attended. I was gradually working up to the crucial experiments, and already there were signs of the possibility that the first hypothesis might have to be discarded. I propose dividing the official report in paragraphs lettered consecutively A. to J. In discussing the sitting it will then be convenient to indicate the paragraph by their letters rather than resorting to recapitulation. The official report reads thus :

- A. 8.57 : Rustling in Psyche's lap, and soon after sound on table—a flick. Trance then came on. Then D. was told by Walter to feel substance as it lay on Psyche's left thigh above the knee. This done, and D. felt clammy substance lying between skin and robe. It moved slightly when D. touched it. It seemed to jerk, and was withdrawn somewhat up the thigh.
- B. D. was told by Walter to extend his hand, and cold stuff was felt and pressed by D. A round mass with knobby prominences on top. Dim led light 3 secs., D. saw 24" long greyish mass at edge of table near middle. It

had a number of knobby projections upon it. M. describes mass as size of two fists resting on edge of table, with five or six rounded knobs on upper surface. Seemed to be pale reddish colour. Dr. Worcester describes it as somewhat smaller, greyish to brown, otherwise the same. D. and M. then, on request, followed a cord from mass downwards which entered folds of dress. *Mr. D.*: This cord seemed soft and clammy like rest of substance but not so solid—diameter  $\frac{1}{4}$ "—like a ribbon with things protruding—a cord-band. *Dr. Worcester*: I passed my hand over mass and along cord till I touched the dress. Diameter, 1" to  $1\frac{1}{4}$ ". Seemed to be composed of strands. *Dr. McDougall*: I did the same and got feeling like placental cord—texture with a membrane—clammy.

- C. Relaxation: red light stronger 2 secs., showed same position and bulk—a mass appearing more closely a crude human hand—crooked at "finger ends." *Mr. D.*: I thought I saw beginning of knuckle and rude attempt at skin markings and apparently veins. *Dr. M.*: I saw rough formation, approximately a right hand with first two joints visible.
- D. D. then asked for visible telekinesis. Then structure covered larger of two rings—nearer border. Then red light 3 secs., then 2 secs., then again 2 secs. On each occasion just as light went out the hand drawing the luminous ring with it made slight movement towards Psyche about 1".
- E. Then the larger ring was seized and waved about some 6" above the table and twisted about. Then, following instructions, D. raised forefinger and large ring was put on it; then smaller ring was pushed up (D.), and after several attempts it was placed on same finger tip. Then rings were moved about and one ring was slapped down on palms of M.'s fingers. The mass on M.'s finger made shaking hand movements.
- F. Then both rings were dashed about over table with laughter from Walter.
- G. Bell was flapped violently and rung violently twice. Cork top came off and was replaced once. Walter was advised not to touch metal top. He replied, "No danger, I'm the sanest man outside of the scientists." Luminous disc-top of bell was eclipsed by the mass when bell was struck.

- H. When larger ring was wanted, it was at centre of table. To get it Walter pulled the table towards Psyche.
- J. Psyche began to come out and sitting ended at 10.20. Instructions from Walter not to move about much to-night in the room. Psyche had nausea and vomiting afterwards. Told to stay in dark a few minutes. Much throat irritation last thirty minutes of sitting. During trance Walter talked continually—intermixed with snores of Psyche in her trance.

(Signed) W. McDOUGALL.  
ELWOOD WORCESTER.  
E. J. DINGWALL.

In this sitting the first indication of the appearance of the substance was that felt on the left thigh somewhat above the knee. When I touched it it jerked slightly and seemed as if it were pulled upwards. The first experiment towards strengthening the validity of the first hypothesis is described in D. It failed. The "hand" lying on the table, which was covering the nearer border of the larger luminous ring, when asked to move the ring did so, but the movement was *not* independent but was caused by the *whole structure being pulled by the cord towards the medium*. It must be remembered that the violent movements which occurred afterwards and which are described in E, F, and G were in darkness. Not the slightest sign of independent movement could be obtained in red light. From the point of view of the second hypothesis this is exceedingly important. Viewed from this angle the situation might be somewhat as follows: the pieces of substance visible at this sitting might be the same as those seen the night before, and the brownish, reddish tint might be due to the material becoming older. The cord, made perhaps of some animal gut, might be fastened to the substance at one end, and to the other could be attached a bulb securely held between the medium's legs. A pull upon this cord would naturally move the substance, and a similar independent movement was achieved. It is conceivable also that a piece of the substance had been made into a sort of bag-like structure which, when connected

with the tube and bulb, might be inflated with air ejected from the bulb by pressure of the medium's legs.

*Sitting IX. (Official).*

January 9, 1925. 10 Lime Street. 9.20 p.m.

*Present:* F. H.; M.; W.; D.

This sitting can be considered a development of the last. A substance apparently the same was felt upon the medium's thigh, and its coldness struck me as being marked in comparison with the warm skin upon which it rested. The cord also was examined in greater detail, and the periods of red light were longer. The searching of the medium by W. was really without value as also were the searches conducted by M. They were carried out in order to prepare the medium and F. H. for what I hoped would be stricter conditions later.

As before, I divide the paragraphs of the official report into sections. It reads thus:

- A. Psyche was dressed in a woollen bath-robe and stockings. She was searched by Dr. Worcester. Mr. Dingwall and F. H. were searched by Dr. McDougall.
- B. A rustling sound was heard almost at once in Psyche's lap, and at about that time she passed into trance. Walter instructed Dingwall to follow up left stocking until he reached the thigh. D. then reports on top of the warm skin of the left thigh a mass like a pan-cake, ice-cold, similar to that which was described yesterday, but less heaped up. D. was slow in orienting himself; whereupon Walter said, "Your hand is caught in the lining of the bath-robe, follow the stocking." D. said this was true. Just after the rustling in the lap, a mass was apparently laid on the table. It appeared as if the mass on the table and the mass on the thigh were present at the same time.
- C. Part of the large luminous ring was obscured by a finger-like process.
- D. Under instructions of Walter, D., W., and M. were each allowed to feel down along the cord leading from the table mass towards Psyche's abdomen. All felt a ribbon cord,

and described it as being  $\frac{1}{2}$ " to  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " long and  $1\frac{1}{8}$ " thick, somewhat rough.

E. The finger-like processes of the mass lifted the luminous ring and waved it about with great freedom, the fingers going as much as 3 inches above the table.

F. We were then given three periods of red light, each brighter than the last, and five seconds each. There was seen a mass like a hand (similar to Kluski's) as if it were a sculptor's model of a hand with the deep skin markings across the knuckles showing, and some marks like veins.

G. Between the light periods a new experiment was devised by Walter: Dingwall encircled the cord with his right thumb and forefinger, the cord resting where the tips met, and when the cord was thus held the mass, by finger-like process, picked up the big luminous ring and flapped mass and ring with a loud noise back on D.'s hand which held the cord. This was done seven times. Walter said, "Do you feel the stiffening in the cord?" D. said it felt elastic rather than stiff.

H. A knobby mass was then shown in red light, then a fairly good hand, and then a mass with five sharply pointed pseudopods like a star-fish, all in red light. McDougall had asked to be allowed to reach across with his left hand and grasp the link between F. H. and Psyche, F. H.'s right hand being grasped by Worcester and McDougall at the same time. Walter now allowed this and three phenomena followed, clearly seen by all observers: (1) the big ring was thrown by a black finger process from the centre of the table to Psyche's edge; (2) the large ring was lifted 4" high, and then carried over to Psyche's abdomen; (3) McDougall says the third phenomenon happening during his control of Psyche was further movement of the big ring. Dingwall and F. H. state that the basket was moved during this last experiment.

J. The illuminated plaque was then introduced. The mass threw itself at once on it and followed in each case Walter's promise. One, two, three, four or five fingers of all shapes were made to suddenly grow out from the mass, some slowly, some quickly. Then a short, coarse

thumb, and finally one long projection with a hook on it, in all twelve inches long. All during the plaque phenomena Walter kept up almost continual conversation, mixed with his characteristic laugh, all heard in between Psyche's obvious snores.

- K. The bandeau on her hair apparently became loose.<sup>1</sup> Walter said, "It's in her eyes; it troubles her in her trance." Dingwall was told to pull it tight and string it over her ears. Thus he did with no success. Whereupon Walter said, "I'll fix it. I'll put it down on her neck," and it was done promptly by Walter.
- L. Further phenomena were now observed on the plaque. All little fingers grew out, rather than protruded. Then a hand appeared as if all the fingers had been amputated, about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " long; then the mass became shapeless, like a club; the movements were sometimes violent, sometimes stealthy. Sometimes three fingers, sometimes five.
- M. Before the illuminated ring was thrown on the floor by Walter, it was folded up and buried under the tissue paper in the little basket. The basket then went up in the air, fell on its side, and was pushed into F. H.'s lap.
- N. The trance was very deep all through this sitting, and Psyche was restless as to arms and legs. At one time her head fell forward on the table with deep snoring.
- O. At one time Walter, speaking of the great night which is approaching, said that on that night D. was to have one leg, F. H. the other, and "Dr. McDougall may have a wing." Then he said, "Dr. W. may hold her nose if he feels neglected." Both Dingwall and McDougall reported during the sitting that the mass grasped their hands, and made motions as if "shaking hands."
- P. We were told to let Psyche wake up in successive exposures to red light. Sitting closed at 11.10 p.m.

Viewed in the light of the second hypothesis the phenomena of this sitting are more difficult to describe than those in the last. We will consider the occurrences mentioned in G, H and J. In G is described the phenomenon of the flapping hand. On this hypothesis I would incline to the view that the mass of substance upon

<sup>1</sup> See note by Dr. McDougall, p. 155.

the table representing the "hand" was connected as before with the tube and bulb. Pressure upon the bulb would force air up the tube and cause just such an elastic tension as I felt. Now since one hand was engaged with the cord and the other controlling Margery, the forceps might then have been employed to seize one end of the mass furthest from the medium and then flap it backwards and forwards over my hand. With the jaws covered with similar substance accidental touching would be concealed and the effect rendered highly curious and intriguing.

In H with change of control the phenomena are difficult to account for, although it seems possible that a rod in the medium's mouth might have caused them, although I did not think so at the time, and am still very doubtful on that point.

In J are described the movements of the mass on the plaque, which are very impressive. It is not easy to hazard even a guess how these effects might be produced normally. It might be urged that inflation by air could produce the effects, although their appearance did not suggest it during the sitting. It is one of those phenomena (and by no means the only one) which are seen with Margery, and appear impossible of explanation when seen but once. At anyrate the occurrence of such a phenomenon led me to persevere with the first hypothesis.

It was, however, clear that before the second hypothesis could be used as a working theory, it would be necessary to improve the test conditions, and as a preliminary I thought it desirable to try to ascertain how far F. H. and Margery were likely to consent to this.

Accordingly, after complimenting them both on the success already attained, I suggested to them that I should make an effort to revive the interest of the *Scientific American* in the case. My proposal was on these terms: a gauze cage was to be employed (of the kind used with the medium Willy Schneider), closed on all sides except for a slit at the level of a person's knees. The table was to be placed in the cage, and the cage itself placed in front of Margery with the slit towards her. F. H. would control one of her hands and I the other. Professor



McDougall would clasp F. H.'s left hand and Margery's right, and Dr. Walter Prince (then Chairman of the *Scientific American* Committee) would clasp my right hand and Margery's left. The medium and controllers would all wear luminous wrist bands as before. The conditions were, in fact, such as would prevent any normal contact with the substance for the purpose of effecting changes of shape and movement when it was lying on the table within the gauze enclosure.

Neither the Chairman of the *Scientific American* Committee nor F. H. would agree, the latter giving as his reasons personal objections on the medium's part to control by members of the Committee. These reasons seemed to me inadequate, and in view of the obvious insufficiency of the conditions hitherto prevailing as a test of the genuineness of the phenomena, seemed to me to lend considerable weight to the second hypothesis.

*Sitting X. (Private).*

January 13, 1925. 10 Lime Street. 9.45 p.m.

*Present:* F. H.; Mr. F. Adler (an old friend of F. H.); D.

At this sitting I had a long discussion with Walter. Assuming the first hypothesis to be true, it seemed that Margery wanted a rest when her recent illness in New York was considered and her nervous tension recognised.

During the sitting I discussed the plans for the next experiments. It appeared a good opportunity to make some inquiry into the mechanism of the independent voice, in order that rest might be secured for the medium's organism as a whole. I tried to persuade Walter to say something about his methods of producing the voice. Pointing out how some material apparatus would seem to be necessary to produce the air waves, I suggested that, as he said the materialised apparatus was usually about three inches from the medium's mouth, it might be possible to obtain a silhouette of the moving structure by means of a luminous plaque behind the medium. All my suggestions were, however, rejected, and Walter, in accordance with conduct which is common with him, namely, that of promising something more wonderful than

that asked by the investigator, assured us that he would show a marvellous materialised head upon the medium's shoulder. We then discussed the plans which I was making for photographic work, and finally Walter tried a few experiments with the gauze cage, which was in readiness should F. H. and the *Scientific American* Committee consent to the tests to which I have alluded above. The following is from F. H.'s notes of the sitting :

Walter came through very shortly, seemed cheerful and willing to co-operate in every way with Mr. Dingwall's ideas. Mr. Dingwall had thought that the strain of last week's sittings was so great on Psyche that it would be well to wait perhaps four days longer, but Walter said "No," that we must sit every night in order that he could practise ; that nothing he did would injure Psyche.

Mr. Dingwall then talked of methods to demonstrate the mechanics of the independent voice. Mr. D.'s idea was to place a faintly illuminated plaque behind Psyche's head so that the mechanism of speech would show up in profile. Walter said this could be done if the light was sufficiently dim, but his idea was better and more convincing, namely, to materialise his head on Psyche's shoulder, and let us see him talk.

*Sitting XI. (Official).*

January 14, 1925. 10 Lime Street. 9.35 p.m.

*Present* : F. H. ; M. ; W. ; D.

At this sitting appeared what was alleged by the control to be the beginning of the talking head. I had tried to persuade Walter to allow me to devise some experiment for demonstrating the independent voice, but all my suggestions were, as already said, refused, and we were promised the materialised head of Walter himself instead of the relatively simple phenomena asked for. The official record reads as follows :

Trance came on more gently than usual, and was followed, after considerable interval, by an appearance

apparently on table top of a vague patch, or sphere, of light three inches or more in diameter, lasting 30 secs. or more and then fading. Then an interval. *Mr. D.*: Then Psyche bent down her head and touched table with it, adjusting her left hand and my right hand in various positions, then rising to sitting position as before.

Then again same light sphere appeared as before, slightly larger in diameter—then a hissing sound was heard—apparently to D. and F. H. from the sphere on the table. McDougall localised the sounds in later events as from the table top or thereabouts. Dr. Worcester says his perceptions did not tally with those of the other observers. *Dr. W.*: I saw a faint nebulous diffused light in same position as described. I should not be able to say I heard any sound as from the table. I heard a scraping noise distinctly when Mr. Dingwall put out his hand.

I heard four or five sounds which I should describe as snorts when I extended my own hand, and I felt corresponding puffs of air on my hand, but my feeling would be to refer the direction of the snorts to the head of Psyche.

Walter said he was going to show something funny. *Mr. D.*: I put my hand out with palm towards W. and M., and then the disc shape of light appeared (2-3 secs.) and then came the hiss, and at every hiss the current of air was distinctly perceptible on my palm.

*Dr. M.*: During these phenomena F. H.'s mouth and nose were four times on my left shoulder and four times on the palm of my left hand.

*Dr. M.*: At Walter's directions I laid right side of my head on the table, at first close to Psyche's edge and later drawing it back at Walter's request. F. H.'s mouth was on back of my left hand throughout and I felt no respiration from him. Then I was aware of a hand or hands resting about the vertex of my head. My face was towards Psyche. I then felt seven or eight puffs of cool air on middle of my face from direction of Psyche, and same time heard the hiss about 8" from my nose, coinciding with each puff. *Mr. D.*: Psyche's left hand, according to Walter's instructions, was on M.'s head during

the above tests. I held Dr. W.'s right hand with my left, and with my right (according to Walter's instructions) covered Psyche's mouth with a folded clean handkerchief, my hand covering the clean handkerchief which extended apparently over her mouth as I used my right hypothenar eminence as a guide which rested immediately under her nose; then the hand was entirely over the mouth; the head of Psyche was slightly inclined backwards and I detected no sign of respiration or expiration. She was sitting upright in her chair. There were eight sets of the hissing phenomena—each time five to eight times repeated.

Walter told us to meet at eight to-morrow and to have the cameras here. Then in breaking up the sitting he told us to flash white light on Psyche twice to accustom her to it.

(Signed) WM. McDOUGALL.  
ELWOOD WORCESTER  
(for my own observations).  
E. J. DINGWALL.

The phenomena discussed in this sitting were, in my judgment at least, exceedingly remarkable. The luminous appearances especially seemed to me interesting, and I do not find it easy to devise a scheme whereby the same effects might be simulated. The light appeared to me to grow in size, increase in brilliance, and then to undergo a series of changes both in size and luminosity. The hissing noise which proceeded from the patch appeared to me to resemble the expulsion of air from a nozzle, and, if fraudulent, suggests a new use for the rubber bulb. The theory might be presented as follows: Assume a tube provided at one end with a bulb held between the medium's legs and at the other a nozzle; laying her head upon the table would be merely an excuse for the medium to place her apparatus thereon; pressure upon the bulb would expel air from the nozzle, and so the resulting hisses would be easy of explanation. An adherent of the first hypothesis could, how-

ever, agree with Walter that one must breathe before one can talk, and would await developments. After all, the appearance of a living talking head independent of Margery, should it occur, would be difficult to simulate.

*Sitting XII. (Official).*

January 15, 1925. 10 Lime Street. 8.45 p.m.

*Present*; F. H.; M.; W.; D.; Mr. Conant outside the circle.

For this sitting I had invited Mrs. Augustus Hemenway to come beforehand to search the medium. I had hoped that a similar search might have been made with F. H., but he was unwilling to sit except in his usual clothes, partly perhaps that he might be ready for any emergency call which might come through by telephone. It had also been arranged that Mr. Conant should come to the sitting and take photographs if the opportunity arose. Just as the medium was ready for the sitting Mrs. Hemenway came to me and told me that the right ear of the medium was bleeding. I went in and found that blood and matter were running out of the ear down the side of her face. Upon seeing this I cancelled the sitting immediately, against the will of my colleagues.

Since Mr. Conant had come with the photographic apparatus, it seemed a favourable opportunity to try a flash in order to find the correct focus and furnish us with a photograph giving an idea of the general conditions. Hardly had Margery sat down before I noticed certain indications which, upon the first hypothesis, would lead one to suppose that the trance was imminent. Apprehending the state of affairs, which was of interest from whichever angle one would choose to regard it, I incidentally resolved to make an experiment on the basis of the first hypothesis.

Now, anyone at all acquainted with the psychology of mediumship will be aware of the dangers of gradually permitting the primary personality to be unduly influenced by the secondary or trance personalities. In order to live in the practical world a dominant primary personality is desirable, nay, even necessary. It is convenient, therefore, to regard with

disfavour the slightest signs of the subject passing into dissociated states except upon those occasions when this is deliberately sought. In the present instance it appeared that the trance was commencing against the will of the subject, consequent upon the suggestions both of environment and customary conditions. I therefore did everything I could to prevent this occurring, and much exaggerated the concern that I felt in order to note the reaction in F. H. To my surprise he opposed my wishes and called for the red light to be put out in order to favour the appearance of the trance. This I forbade until after the flash for the trial photographs. Just after the flash I heard Walter's laugh, and at the same time saw the left corner of Margery's mouth fall, as if pulled by a string. There was no longer any doubt that the laugh proceeded directly from her mouth, although the action by which it was produced was suggestive and exceedingly interesting. Since the medium was apparently in deep trance a short sitting was held in which I elaborated my scheme of testing F. H.'s attitude towards this important incident. The conversation with Walter turned upon the point of joint responsibility, he for his side and me for mine. I informed him that the trances must only be permitted at the pre-arranged times, and that if they came on at other times they would interfere with the medium's daily life, and the result would be that the sittings would be stopped. My colleagues both apparently disapproved of this course, and Professor McDougall asked whether I realised that I might have an independent personality on the other side with whom to deal. Moreover, F. H. seemed greatly delighted at Walter's success in forcing himself upon us, a point upon which I had expressly exaggerated my concern in order to stimulate discussion.

After the sitting I discussed the whole affair with F. H. from his professed point of view. Assuming that Walter is a spirit and the brother of the medium, what guarantee had he, I asked, for supposing that Walter will always be in control, since he had already had experiences where foreign agencies had controlled the medium and had caused much unpleasantness?<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Apart altogether from this case, the occurrence of the trance states when unwanted by the subject, is, I believe, a danger signal, just as is the phenomenon of "hearing voices" in another connexion.

His reply did not seem satisfactory, and the force of my objection, supported by many cases from the literature of the subject, appeared not to appeal to him. I came to the conclusion that, bearing in mind that he was a medical man, his belief in the personality of Walter could not be what he professed it to be, and thus the result of the episode provided, as I had hoped that it would, some suggestive material. The following is the official record of the sitting. It will be noticed that the phenomena were similar to the previous night :

Dingwall noticed some signs of on-coming trance at once, and then while noticing these signs Dingwall saw left corner of her mouth fall and the right corner rise. At that moment a laugh like Walter's was heard. Dingwall placed it as coming from mouth. Dr. Worcester heard laugh at his right and then he heard a whistle at his left. F. H. placed it there also. Conant heard both, also Psyche.

Trance then came on just after the trial flash light was burned.

After discussion with Walter as to future plans, in which Dingwall and Walter expressed opposing opinions, Walter said, "I want to experiment with deep trance ten minutes." This followed at once. Seven slow, deep respirations followed, and then a period of apparently no breathing for ten to fifteen seconds ; then six regular respirations, then ten to fifteen seconds silence, then five and silence, four and silence, etc., down to one long one. Then head and left arm went on table, and head banged two or three times. After two or three times of this, while she was erect, a luminous cloud seven inches diameter, but less diffused than last night, was seen at right of Psyche's edge of table—seen by Drs. Worcester, McDougall, and F. H. —one time accompanied by a rubbing sound three times on table.

Sitting closed at 10.10 p.m., just as Psyche came out.

Just before sitting Mrs. Hemenway discovered Psyche's right ear was bleeding. It was a dilute blood as if it contained some lymph from middle ear. She had some ache in ear all afternoon—a little of it after sitting last night.

It had been decided to have no sitting this night. The trance then appeared against the will of everyone present.

(Signed) E. J. DINGWALL.

W. McDOUGALL.

ELWOOD WORCESTER.

*Sitting XIII. (Official).*

January 17, 1925. 10 Lime Street. 8.23 p.m.

*Present*: F. H.; M.; W.; D.

The record of this sitting is as follows:

On this night, as on each night previous, Mrs. Augustus Hemenway came before the sitting and examined Psyche, even to the extent of taking down her hair. Psyche was dressed only in a bath-robe and stockings. Dr. McDougall examined Mr. Dingwall and F. H.

Trance came on almost at once. Vague huge patch of light over left of Psyche's chest in two parts—persistent—extending downwards. Seen by Worcester, McDougall, and F. H.

Twice when Psyche's mouth was held by Dingwall's hand over it and she was quietly and normally breathing through her nose, and F. H.'s face was on Dr. McDougall's left shoulder, five to eight sounds were heard like nasal breathing and loud, and not near Psyche's head— $1\frac{3}{4}$  to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet away. Three other series occurred without the mouth control (D. and F. H.)

(Signed) ELWOOD WORCESTER.

W. McDOUGALL.

E. J. DINGWALL.

The most noticeable event of the séance was the vague patch of light. It seemed to extend from the lower left hand side of the neck to just below the left breast. Perhaps it may be urged that the appearance was not in reality upon the robe as we believed at the time, but was a patch of phosphorescent material powdered on the medium's bare body and became visible through opening the robe. I detected no movements on my side indicating that the robe had been opened, but the possible freedom



of the right hand should not be overlooked in this connection. As before, the most puzzling feature of the light was the apparent change both in contour and brilliance, a fact for which I have no adequate explanation, if the picture my memory preserves of the incident is to be trusted. This sitting was originally intended by Walter to present an example of birth and dissolution of the substance. Nothing, however, of the kind occurred. The reason given for the failure is, I think, important, as it was another of those incidents which made me seriously consider whether the first hypothesis was justified as a working theory. From what the control had said it was clear that the extrusion of the substance would resemble a normal birth, and in this respect the case links up with facts already observed with other mediums. Whether these facts provide a basis for a belief in their supernormal nature need not concern us here. What is important to remember is the observation of the method of the extrusion of the teleplasm in Eva C., Kathleen Goligher, etc., as vouched for by the witnesses. Now, Walter directed that in preparation for this great event a flat piece of wood should be provided which should rest upon the medium's chair in such a way that whilst she was seated upon the part resting on the seat of the chair, the front part should project beyond the chair about twelve inches or more. This precaution was necessary, so he averred, since without it the substance *might fall to the floor, the cord be broken and a catastrophe result*. Now this statement is in flat contradiction with everything which has hitherto been described by reliable witnesses with teleplastic mediums. I need hardly remind those who read this paper (and presumably are acquainted with the literature) that there are many instances in which the substance has actually fallen to the ground without any such catastrophic results. One would have supposed that after the substance has emerged or is emerging, the vital principle animating the structure would have been sufficient to maintain its rigidity without any external mechanical support. To this objection, as to all others of a like nature, F. H., in company with other

critics, will reply in the doctor's favourite aphorism, "You didn't make the Universe; you must accept it," to which I would respectfully rejoin that it is not a case of acceptance but of interpretation, and we must interpret in accordance with our knowledge of the facts as we are able to obtain them.

The results hitherto obtained had been so remarkable that I hoped that the reality of the phenomena of the extrusion and re-absorption of the substance would be self-evident. My own provisional impression of the mediumship was that the phenomena were authentic, and I had partly given my opinion to this effect to my colleagues and others. I now (July, 1925) no longer hold this view, and admit my change of mind, which, however, I shall again not hesitate to modify if freshly discovered facts appear to warrant it.

*Sitting XIV. (Official).*

January 18, 1925. 10 Lime Street. 8.30 p.m.

*Present:* F. H.; M.; D.

The board was provided as before, but except for communication with Walter, who again insisted on its necessity, this was a wholly negative sitting.

*Sitting XV. (Private).*

January 19, 1925. 10 Lime Street. 9.25 p.m.

*Present:* F. H.; D.; Mr. R. W. Conant attended to the cameras of which there were four, one of which was stereoscopic and was generously procured by Mrs. C. Dennett.

Mrs. Hemenway searched the medium as before, and the medium wore bath-robe, stockings, and luminous bands as usual. The following is F. H.'s record of the sitting:

Deep trance came on at once, and with fairly good rapidity, accompanied by comments and directions from Walter, we were shown the actual production of the teleplasm from the abdomen of the psychic. From time to time the red flash light was allowed. A mass formed on the abdomen, which shortly differentiated itself into a fairly well formed hand,

fingers downwards, attached from the wrist to the umbilicus by a cord apparently  $\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter, all white.

Later Mr. Dingwall put out the palm of his hand. A mass was thrown on it, and although this mass apparently did not move, Mr. Dingwall could feel apparently another hand above it moulding the mass. And sure enough, the next red flash showed a fairly well formed hand lying on top of Mr. Dingwall's hand, while at the previous sight only the unformed teleplasm was seen.

Walter then told us to direct our attention to the head of the psychic, and the red flash revealed a mass like a huge knobby potato, pinkish grey in colour, attached to the left head apparently near the ear. It seemed to be  $4 \times 3 \times 2$  inches.

Three flash light photographs<sup>1</sup> were taken of all these phenomena.

We were then allowed to see the absorption of the teleplasm into the body.

Sitting closed at 10.50 p.m.

This sitting is very important. It provided unique opportunities for observation: it might also have been expected to provide indisputable proof of the reality of the supernormal substance; and that the extrusion and re-absorption could not conceivably have been engineered by normal means. It did none of these things. Although all that occurred *could* have been interpreted in two ways, yet I was forced to admit to myself that the evidence in favour of the second hypothesis was stronger than that for the first.

The fatal flaw in the evidential nature of these phenomena lies in the choice of the light and dark periods by the Control. These *always* are selected exactly when the observer does *not* want them. I say *always*, but perhaps it is fair to add that in other sittings the observer sometimes had his way, but then the phenomena presented did nothing to strengthen his first hypothesis, but rather provided material for another. In this sitting, as I persistently

<sup>1</sup>These and all other photographs taken during the sittings are copyright by Dr. L. R. G. Crandon.

urged, everything depended upon the growth and re-absorption being *carried out in red light*. What was wanted was not the finished or partly finished product, but the making of the production itself. These "hands" are supposed to grow, to expand, to approach perfection. But we want to *see* these steps in operation; to *see* the growth progressing; to *see* the actual extrusion and re-absorption. At this sitting none of these things were permitted except a momentary glimpse of the supposed re-absorption, which was not in the least impressive. From the point of view of the hypothesis of trickery the steps would be somewhat as follows:

(1) F. H. secures two or three finger-like pieces of substance and gives them to Margery, who lays them against her genitals.

(2) A larger mass is similarly arranged.

(3) The same mass is re-adjusted. The use of a small towel demanded by Walter provides the excuse for interference.

(4) The mass has been arranged and the end of the structure tucked into the navel.

(5) The mass is substituted for another, or the same one is re-arranged and the "fingers" arranged over my hand with much skill.

(6) The whole mass is withdrawn and a single piece used and (1) again arranged, so that only a portion protrudes *ex vagina*.

(7) The same or a similar mass is now placed on the left cheek and ear. This mass is subsequently withdrawn and carried away, either by F. H. or by the medium.

But this hypothesis of normal production would be impossible were it not for the periods of light and darkness selected by the control. As it was, the real observations had to be made during a few seconds only, so I concentrated my attention upon but a few points. Paying especial attention to the supposed attachment of the substance to the body, I tried to discover whether the substance seemed to be really growing from the navel or whether it had the appearance of having been tucked into that cavity, and from what could be gathered from so

fleeting an inspection the second mode of attachment seemed to be more probable. Moreover, the movements of the "hand," when it lay over my own were so startlingly dissimilar from that produced by a living hand that the assumption that the teleplastic hand was being manipulated by a real hand was forced upon me. Thus, if we continue to accept the first hypothesis, we have to assume that a second materialised hand, endowed with all the attributes of life, was manipulating the other hand in order to provide material for supposing that the teleplastic hand was moving upon mine. This is so extravagant a hypothesis that the second theory of normal action becomes almost irresistible, unless the objector chooses to regard my impressions concerning the movements of the teleplastic hand as due to illusion.

After this incident I decided to direct my attention to the point of the movements of the substance, and in the next sitting it will be seen how startlingly the results support the second rather than the first hypothesis.

This séance marks the turning point of the inquiry. Until this sitting my provisional acceptance of the first hypothesis, with all that it implied, had produced the most astonishing results. The atmosphere of mutual confidence had provided an easy course of progressive work, and would have been fully justified had not the phenomena broken down at a crucial point. Many of the phenomena, however, remained unexplained, and I determined to proceed as before, observing the same outward demeanour, although my opinion of the validity of the first hypothesis had been somewhat shaken.

Three photographs were taken at this sitting, of which I publish three representative specimens from the twelve exposures made in the four cameras (Plate I, Figs. A, B, C).

I, Fig. A, is an enlargement of the first result, and shows the "hand" as it appeared when lying upon the body of the medium. The appearance resembles a crude model of a left hand formed out of some skinny substance. T is the thumb, and F the fingers; N is the navel from which the "arm" appears to be growing; and Tr is a part of the "wrist," the "rings" of which so strongly suggest that

it is part of a trachea that the theory has been advanced that the hand is made up out of the lung of some animal. We shall discuss this later, and, in the meantime, pass to Plate I, Fig. B, which is an enlargement of the second exposure. Part of my hand is seen at DH, the thumb being DT, and the extended fingers DF. The "hand" rests across my hand, its "fingers" towards my thumb, and its forefinger just at the edge of the towel T. The "wrist" is formed of two tubular appendages, and the join of the "thumb" to the rest of the "hand" shows a couple of orifices supported by a piece of skinny material. The surface of the "hand" shows rude skin markings and part of the forefinger exhibits a ridge or line of substance which runs down towards the tip. The third exposure (Plate I, Fig. c) shows one portion of a stereoscopic picture of the substance at the side of the medium's head. A mass of material appears to spring from Margery's left ear, and on its outer edge near the turned-up collar of the robe lies a rude finger, RF, which resembles the second finger of Plate I, Fig. A, inasmuch as it has the skin turned up at its tip. The end of the substance, which is dotted with minute orifices, O, strongly resembling bronchioles, seems to enter the medium's mouth. We cannot discuss here the possible normal nature of the substance as revealed by the photographic results. It is clear that no certainty can ever be reached in this respect, and I hope to deal rather more fully with this problem in the Conclusions at the end of the report.

*Sitting XVI. (Official).*

January 20, 1925. 10 Lime Street. 9.15 p.m.

*Present:* W.; F. H.; M.; D.

At this sitting F. H. consented to relinquish his seat to Dr. Worcester, and occupied another between the latter and Professor McDougall. With this exception the control was as usual. The official report reads as follows:

Psyche was searched and examined by Mrs. Hemenway, and conducted into room by Mr. Dingwall direct. Her hands were held or were in view on table from that time on. From then to end of sitting Mr. Dingwall never lost

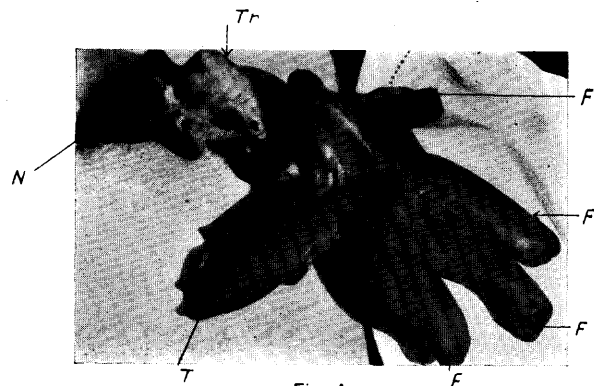


Fig. A.

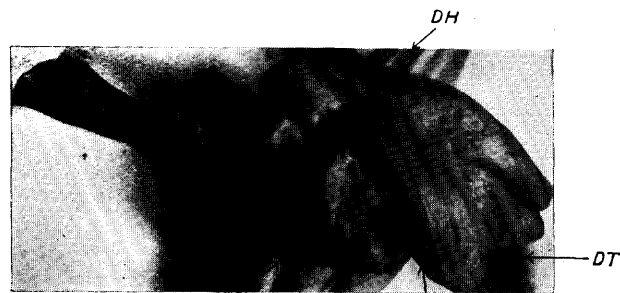


Fig. B.

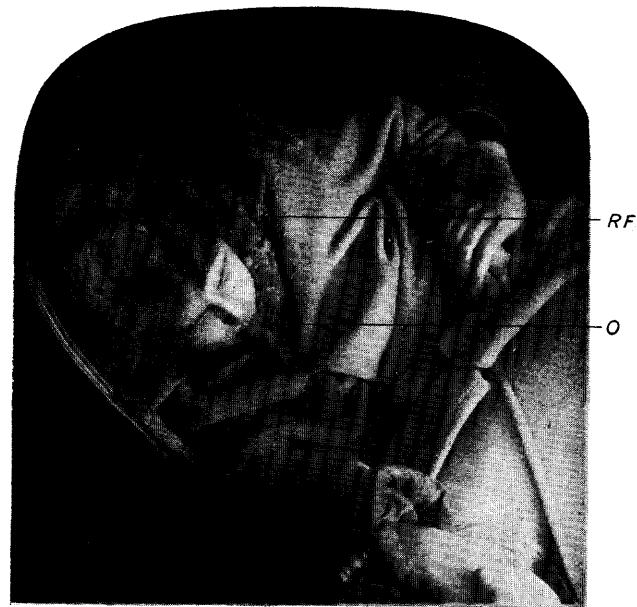


Fig. C.

contact with Psyche's left hand. Dr. Worcester held right hand and never lost contact with hand or wrist for a second.

Dr. McDougall searched F. H. (clothed) before sitting. McDougall says this is not really relevant, because F. H. was adequately controlled on both sides from start to finish. Dr. Worcester agrees with this. When F. H. turned on rheostat, Dr. Worcester followed and held F. H.'s hand.

Trance came on quietly in two or three minutes. Within ten minutes Mr. Dingwall heard oozing sound near Psyche's lap and then movements of her legs. Mr. Dingwall felt usual cold mass on left thigh small; then Walter said, "Turn red light on two seconds," and we saw mass like elongated tuberosities in Psyche's left groin. Then left leg went up on table, and then Psyche put her held left hand down and threw mass on table.

Then Dingwall, Worcester, and McDougall, each separately with back of his hand, felt mass on the table—cold, firmer than previously, and knobby. Mr. Dingwall says not so cold as usual, more skinny and gristly, resilient.

Walter directed next red flash to be turned on, and we saw what was just now felt. To Mr. Dingwall the base of the cord to-day was thicker than usual, and part where it disappeared at edge of table it was ropy and dark brown colour. We saw a heaped knobby mass; Dr. Worcester saw an elongated mass extending from edge of table,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ "-3" wide and 4"-5" long, terminating in a point extending north. To Dr. McDougall it seemed to have finger-like processes extending north (*sic*).

Then a photograph was taken (four cameras, one of which is stereoscopic) by flash. After this flash we could see on table top (which had become luminescent from particles of Geley's powder) a black outline more or less like a starfish—visible to Mr. Dingwall and F. H.

Red flash revealed a mass visible on table similar to what had been seen before—heaped up, and a cord was seen going down towards Psyche's knees. Dr. Worcester's hand was put on mass near origin of cord by Psyche's hand. It felt like the mass.



Then on request in red flash Mr. Dingwall saw mass pulled backwards slightly. Three times more it was done. Dr. Worcester saw it the third time, Dr. McDougall the fourth time. F. H. saw it twice, Mr. Dingwall saw it three times—like an amoebic shrinking. Psyche very restless, light talking trance, complained of pain, headache, soreness all over.

Her head then went several times on table, lying on its left side. Then trance became deeper. Walter said, "Let it be there. I am going to show you something: one psychic phenomenon. Ha! Ha! Ha!" Then, under instructions, red flash turned on head two seconds showed large mass front of and on right ear. Then a photo was taken of the mass. Then each was allowed again to feel the mass. Dr. Worcester says: "I felt the mass twice—first gently, at which time it appeared to extend from right temple to top of ear and front of ear. The second time Psyche took my hand and pressed it with much greater force against her head than I should have thought it wise to employ myself. By this time the mass had considerably enlarged in extent and thickness. It appeared to extend from nearly the top of the head to the lower part of lobe of ear. The mass thickened as it descended. Nearly as I could judge it was perhaps  $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick at lower end. Psyche pressed my hand strongly against the substance. I felt it to be cold, clammy, and quite elastic. By compression of the substance my hand seemed to touch the side of her head, but it was forced up again. This was by far the most impressive contact with the substance I have had." Mass in red light looked brownish grey to Worcester, McDougall, and F. H., lighter in colour to Dingwall.

Psyche then sat up and was wakened gradually by red light periods.

McDougall referring back to mass on table says: "I was given contact with it on table. I could feel the elongated tuberosities corresponding to what I had seen: a soft, resilient mass like a membrane filled with some semi-fluid substance."

Sitting closed at 10.30 p.m. Examination of stool, chair, cabinet, and table was made before and after sitting.

(Signed) W. McDOUGALL.  
ELWOOD WORCESTER.  
E. J. DINGWALL.

At this sitting the phenomena were similar to those remarked previously with some important exceptions. As indicated above, one reason for the change of positions in the sitters was that I wished to inquire into the alleged self mobility of the substance. According to the first hypothesis the substance is living, or at least temporarily endowed with what we loosely term "vitality," and when it emerges from the body of the subject and makes its way upon the table, it does so by its own inherent qualities. Therefore, the moment it should be heard to fall upon the table top was anxiously awaited. The first indication that the substance was emerging was the sound it apparently made when issuing from the body, or almost immediately afterwards. I felt it on the medium's person, where we all saw it lying as described in the report. Now, then, was the opportunity for it to display its qualities of self mobility and climb upon the table. But nothing of the sort occurred. *Psyche put her left hand down, with D.'s still controlling it, and threw the mass upon the table.* Is it not exactly what we should expect on the second hypothesis? The mass may have been concealed in the vagina and thence expelled<sup>1</sup>; thus the only course open would have been for the medium to throw it upon the table and then devise means of manipulating it there without the use of the hands. Movement in the red light was confined to the mass being pulled backwards as if by the cord. The movements upon the table were

<sup>1</sup>I here submitted Plate IIb to an eminent gynecologist with the request for information as to the possibility of concealing such a substance. The following is her reply: "Yes, of course it would be quite possible to pack a considerable portion of such substance into the vagina, and this could only be definitely excluded by examination immediately before putting on tights. By muscular contraction (which, however, I should think would be obvious) the substance might be held or partially expelled. . . ."

caused by the medium manipulating the mass with her mouth as appears plainly in the photograph reproduced (Plate II, Fig. A). Margery, her head-band pushed up to the top of her head instead of round her forehead, is seen with the substance in her mouth. W. holds her right hand and I hold her left, whilst M. leans forward with his head on the table. The mass has two or more elongated projections like rude fingers extending towards the centre of the table, and the general position of the circle is clearly illustrated. The second photograph (Plate II, Fig. B) is one of the stereoscopic results taken from the side. It shows a mass of substance lying over the right ear. Extending towards the neck is a projecting piece, P, upon which is a sharp ridge, with which may be contrasted that visible on the "hand" seen on January 19 (see Plate I, Fig. B). From the main portion springs a caudal appendage, C, and apparently joining it towards the upper part and almost at the centre is seen the opening to what appears to be a sort of tube,<sup>1</sup> T. The end of the caudal portion hangs over the mouth, E.

*Sitting XVII. (Official).*

January 22, 1925. 10 Lime Street. 9.30 p.m.

*Present:* W.; F. H.; M.; D.; Mrs. Hemenway was seated outside the circle just between M. and D.

On the day previous to this sitting I received from Professor McDougall the letter of January 18, since published in his article in the *Journal* of the American Society for Psychical Research for June, 1925, and I also had some talk with him and Dr. Worcester. It is to be regretted that we had not compared notes sooner, as knowledge of the suspicious circumstances observed might have helped me to change my working hypothesis sooner.

The following is a record of the sitting:

Usual search of persons was made.

On table large and small ring, spatula and bell. Basket to right of medium on floor.

<sup>1</sup> Another photograph taken from the front shows this tube, T, more clearly. Its diameter seems slightly greater than that of the caudal strip at the part next to it. (See Plate II, Fig. c.)

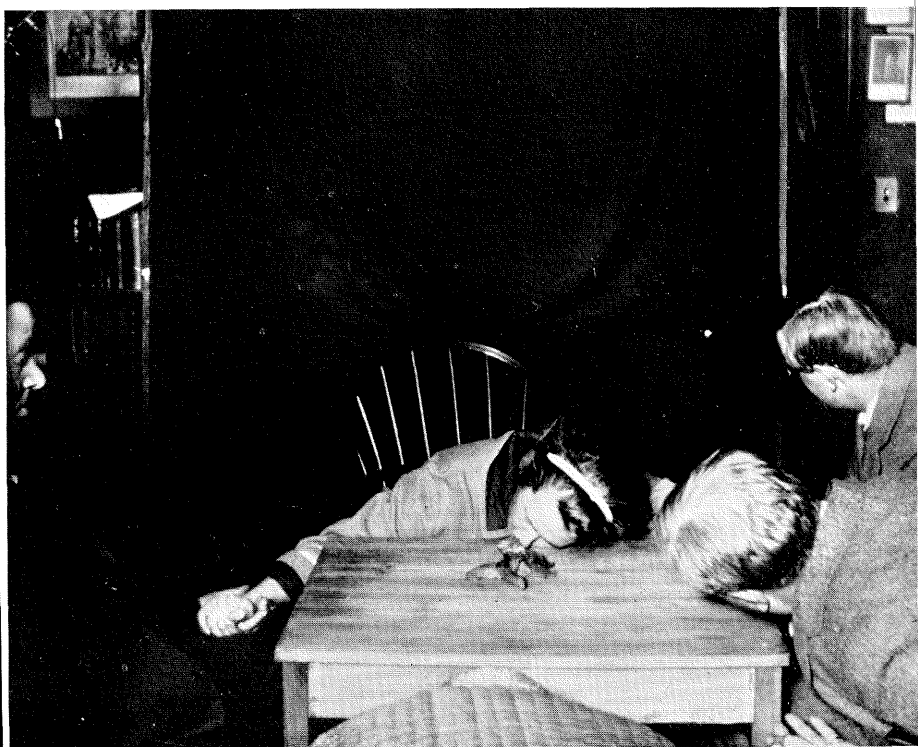


Fig. A.

PLATE II



Fig. B.



Fig. C.

Medium restless, apparently uneasy, head on table and off again, hair pins removed by Mr. D. to let hair fall loose.

Owing to suggestion that lack of phenomena might be due to change of control, F. H. and Dr. W. exchanged seats.

Nothing even occurred, so it was suggested that basket be used or lights shown.

Rustling of tissue paper was heard in region of basket on floor at Psyche's right (Dr. W. and F. H.).

D. saw light rise up at right of Psyche. M. saw luminosity rise twice and fall in region of right of table. W. saw basket rise up to level of table. Mrs. H. saw it once, D. saw it as fleeting glimpse second time.

Next D. controlled Psyche's left hand and leg, M. controlled D.-Psyche link. Psyche's right leg and both F. H.'s legs were controlled by Dr. W.—nothing happened.

Sitting closed at 11.10 p.m.

(Signed) ELWOOD WORCESTER.

W. McDOUGALL.

E. J. DINGWALL.

The results of the sitting were curious, and in one way supported the second hypothesis rather than the first. The levitation of the basket, which was observed only fleetingly by myself, and well by Dr. Worcester and Mrs. Hemenway, might conceivably have been produced either by the medium or by F. H. Professor McDougall has suggested that the levitation was produced by the medium's right foot, but my impression at the time was that it would have been difficult to have done this without exposure of the luminous bracelet on the right ankle, and that if, as the appearance of the phenomenon indeed suggested at the time, the levitation had been performed fraudulently, F. H.'s left foot was the one probably responsible. It is noteworthy that when a proper control was insisted on no resulting phenomena took place, but this again, like so many other similar facts, is capable of a double interpretation.

*Sitting XVIII. (Private).*

January 23, 1925. 10 Lime Street. 8 p.m.

*Present:* F. H.; Mrs. Stinson (mother of the medium); D.

This sitting was entirely negative.

*Sitting XIX. (Official).*

January 24, 1925. 10 Lime Street. 9.5 p.m.

*Present* : W. ; F. H. ; M. ; Dr. Mark Richardson ; Mrs. Richardson ; D.

At this sitting W. again occupied F. H.'s usual place. The sitting was remarkable for the alleged control of the medium by the late Professor Hyslop, who wished to communicate with W. I was totally unimpressed by this occurrence, and from my limited experience it seemed quite unlike anything I had hitherto encountered, and strongly suggested simulation. There were no telekinetic or teleplastic phenomena, and the record reads thus :

Trance came in 5-10 minutes. Dr. Worcester : 'My left hand was seized by Psyche in powerful convulsive grip—the holding hand quivered. A long hissing sound was made as of deep inspiration. Then came word "Worcester," and in reply to query as to identity, trance voice said "Hyslop." Just before this Psyche's hand jerked out of Worcester's control and struck three times violently on table. I feared she would hurt herself. When I recovered her hand, her elbow was rigid and I could not straighten it. Tried then for message. When the voice said, "Act at once, or all will be over." Then he said, "My work of twenty-five years will be utterly wasted" (words to that effect). "Bring it over." Dr. Worcester said, "I think I take your meaning ; what about Prince ?" Hyslop said, "He has done the best he could." Walter (Worcester) said, "Have you confidence in him ?" Hyslop said "Yes." Earlier Hyslop said, "I've been trying to get at you for three days." The table was struck hard two periods—three or four times. During two-thirds of this conversation the red light was on and the circle was broken. Left leg was up in a spasm. Hyslop said, "I have warned you of this before" (see Dr. Douglas memoranda). Then Walter came through and light was put out.

Walter was asked to work on lighted megaphone at right back of cabinet ; or on luminous basket fastened

high in back angle of cabinet (26" up); on tambourine lying against left back corner. He tried for an hour apparently—suggested moving megaphone forwards, and said he would do it in red light—but we stopped at 11.5 p.m.

Psyche had severe uterine haemorrhage.

(Signed) ELWOOD WORCESTER.

W. McDOUGALL.

E. J. DINGWALL.

MARK W. RICHARDSON.

JOSEPHINE L. RICHARDSON.

The following day F. H. met Professor McDougall and myself at lunch in Professor McDougall's apartments. We discussed the whole situation, and F. H. seemed upset and worried at the turn things had taken.

During the days immediately preceding January 31 there were no official sittings. Margery was ill, and for various reasons the idea of a Harvard series had to be abandoned. I spent much time at 10 Lime Street, and F. H. and I had many pleasant talks and discussions. I also made some private experiments in various directions and made a series of inquiries, nearly all of which supported the first hypothesis as opposed to the second. It still seemed to me almost incredible that the second theory was valid, and yet the failure of all the crucial tests could not be overlooked. On January 27 the medium was still ill, and an official sitting had to be postponed. Towards evening, however, she insisted upon a home circle being formed, at which I was present. (Sitting XX.) Mr. Adler and Mr. Conant were present, and F. H. and myself occupied our accustomed places. On the table were the bell, two luminous rings, the tambourine, and a flat wooden throat spatula, one end of which I had painted with luminous paint on both sides. The two small megaphones stood to the right of Margery's chair, and the basket rested on the mouthpiece of the one nearest the table. The medium complained of headache, but the control laughed and talked as usual. After a time the medium, still grumbling, laid her head down on the table,



her hair lying over the spatula. Then she raised her head and leaned back a little. Soon the spatula moved an inch or two towards her in jerks. It fell off the table on to her lap and remained, according to Mr. Adler's account, hanging down near the right corner of her chair, whence it subsequently fell to the ground. As these movements were going on I noticed many jerks of the luminous head-band. The sitting closed soon after the spatula had fallen.

Now, the movement of the spatula could easily be accounted for up to a point without recourse to the supernormal. When the medium laid her head on the table a hair might have been attached to the spatula possibly by means of a little wax, although it would certainly appear very difficult to do this efficiently. Then as she raised her head slowly the hair would be lengthened, and then the spatula would be moved and drawn into her lap. It would then fall off and remain hanging. The movements of the head confirm these theories, and yet no direct evidence exists that these methods were employed. I mentioned them to F. H., but he dismissed them impatiently as unworthy of attention.

On January 30 Professor McDougall drew my attention to certain signs upon the enlargements of the photographs of the two "hands" obtained on January 19 (see Plate I, Figs. A, B). Thus in Plate I, Fig. A, he noticed in the section marked Tr certain ring markings which strongly resembled the cartilaginous rings found in the mammalian trachea. This discovery led him to the theory that the "hands" had been faked from some animal lung material, the tissue cut and joined, and that part of the trachea had been used for the same purpose. The appearance of the wrinkled looking skin, and other indications to be discussed later, are consistent with the same idea.

On January 31 I read before an invited audience at Jordan Hall, Boston, an account of the sittings, the best account of which was published in the *Boston Herald* of February 1, 1925.

Having finished the official series I determined to continue the inquiry by having a number of private sittings

at which Margery and her husband permitted me to be present. These sittings were to be held informally, and I hoped also to see some of the reported telekinetic phenomena in red light and possibly some more of the teleplastic phenomena. The first of these sittings was on February 1.

*Sitting XXI. (Private).*

February 1, 1925. 10 Lime Street. 9 p.m.

*Present:* F. H.; D.; Mrs. Brown; Mr. F. Adler; Dr. E. Brown; Rev. F. Edwards; Mr. A. W. Gray.

This was a sitting for friends of Margery and F. H., and what F. H. calls "An old folks at home gathering." There were some few mental phenomena, mostly in connection with Mr. Edwards, and these by request of F. H. have been omitted in the following report of the sitting which he has drawn up.

Walter came through almost at once, with whistles and greetings.

Mr. Gray was told to keep his family away from dabbling in this matter of spiritualism; let them come to Lime Street if they choose, otherwise let it alone, they are too nervous.

A partly luminous throat stick was moved along table and lifted from it. Its motions corresponded to motions of the psychic's right hand, though the whole hand was constantly curled inside F. H.'s hand.

Red light telekinesis was promised for the next night. Sitting closed at 10 p.m.

The next sitting, XXII., was on February 2, but was negative. On the following day Margery appeared ill and depressed, but on the same evening F. H. proposed a sitting, XXIII., at which we obtained only the vocal phenomena and then not in the megaphone, which phenomenon I persistently urged Walter to give to us. Instead, he promised the materialised talking head, although I tried to explain how much more important the voice in the megaphone would be if we could get it under control conditions. The refusal to entertain any proposals for obtaining certainty of the independence of the voice is to be noted in this connection.

*Sitting XXIV. (Private).*

February 4, 1925. 10 Lime Street. 8.15 p.m.

*Present*: F. H.; Mr. F. Adler; D.

At this sitting the materialisation again appeared, and again I took the opportunity to discover a single fact which would seem to prove the second hypothesis invalid and which would compel me to return to the first. The masses were quite different from those seen before. Instead of a clammy, greyish thickened mass appeared an object made of a rough white skin, clearer looking than before and more finished in appearance. This is what we would expect upon either hypothesis, that is to say, that the regularity of forms and general finish was due to practice, normal or supernormal. The following is a record of the sitting:

Light trance in three minutes. Then a mass appeared on left thigh—felt by Mr. D., 5" long and 1" thick, cool and clammy, heaped up—softer than formerly. Psyche's hand combined with D.'s was on it for next 15 minutes. Her hands were restless—a ropy connector or cord with shiny rings or necks was felt going towards her body. Then a flap was heard on table as if mass were put on table. Then it was felt by Mr. D. Then we were permitted to see it in red light—2 secs., then 5 secs.—like a small spaniel's head or the skull of a fish—mass whiter than ever before—like rough white skin—soft and resilient to the touch, and grew less clammy and was quite dry and gristly. Mr. Adler says: "It was a soft, quite cool substance, with whitish skin." We then had 6 periods of 5 secs. each with full red light to look at it. Each time it appeared to take undoubtedly different forms (like stump of hand or a big crumpled rose, etc., etc.).

Then the mass was seen in red light on the abdomen three times. Then it appeared on the table again with finger-like processes over edge of table towards Psyche. Then it was seen again on abdomen, showing attachment of the umbilicus, thick ropy. D. tried to discover if it were withdrawn into umbilicus, but can only say it appeared to emerge from there and so stayed. When D.

asked for withdrawal the mass below moved upwards as if preparatory to answering the request.

Walter was in excellent humour. Amongst other things he said: "Pay no attention to her, let her groan. She really hasn't any pain. Blow your nose, Kid. I'm like an octopus, I can attach myself anywhere and then put life into it. She must sit every night. Don't ask her how she feels. We have much to do in the next ten days."

During the sitting the victrola slowed down for at least fifteen minutes (Walter said it was sick) and then resumed normal speed.

Psyche complained of pain at intervals, and pointing it out by putting her hand on one side, on the other (D. or F. H.) said—"It hurts here"—and the hand was then put on the mass or on the cord as if it were part of her.

Walter said: "Cut three inches off the table legs. Dingwall and I are two head apart. Let her wake up gradually and then rest ten minutes."

(Signed) E. J. DINGWALL.

J. FRED ADLER.

L. R. G. CRANDON.

The two classes of phenomena at this sitting were (a) the materialisation and (b) the slowing of the victrola. This latter phenomenon had been repeatedly observed before my arrival in Boston, but this was the first occasion that it had occurred in my series.<sup>1</sup> The victrola is driven by an electric motor attached to a lamp holder and runs evenly during the sitting, a repeater being used so that the same record is played over and over again. I had made a cursory examination of the apparatus, but not being an electrician my inspection was of little service. On handling the connection, however, the motor suddenly stopped, for what reason I was unable to discover, as all the connections were securely attached. On mentioning the matter to F. H. he soon remedied the fault, although he did not tell me wherein the trouble lay.

With regard to the materialisations, these differed considerably from those seen previously. In the first place

<sup>1</sup> See J. M. Bird, *op. cit.* pp. 321 ff.

they no longer appeared solid or semi-solid, but as if inflated by air. The same experiment was tried regarding the mode of attachment to the navel, but again it failed. When I asked for the cord to be withdrawn into the navel the mass beneath moved, but not the cord from the abdomen. The feel of the cord also was different from that experienced before, and the rings or necks which were tangible upon it again reminded me of what would seem to be perceptible were a trachea to be handled in the same manner. We repeatedly handled the substance upon the table, both in darkness and light, and at times the pressure I exerted upon the substance was considerable. The ends of the "fingers" were stiff and skinny, and powerful pressure upon them produced no effect on the medium, who groaned only when the whole structure was pressed by the palm of the hand or by the fingers. This sitting did nothing to support the validity of the first hypothesis, and indeed gave material to the second. My attempts at obtaining a single phenomenon which would, if properly observed and checked, have done much to restore my confidence had signally failed. The periods of darkness and light were still occurring at just those intervals when they were most hindering to observation, and the presence of the right hand of the medium in her lap during a great part of the sitting was also a circumstance to be noted. From the point of view of the second hypothesis there was nothing impossible in what had occurred, and the appearance of the new form of teleplastic material was consistent with the idea that a fresh supply of the "substance" had been obtained and shaped accordingly to need.

*Sitting XXV. (Private).*

February 5, 1925. 10 Lime Street. 8.14 p.m.

*Present:* F. H.; Mr. Adler; Mrs. Hemenway; D.; Mr. Conant outside the circle in charge of the cameras.

This was one of the most important sittings that I had with Margery, and some admirable photographs were taken. The following is the record of the sitting:

Within seven minutes mass felt protruding from robe and in Psyche's lap. Then a flap was heard on the table top. Then Mr. D., with right hand controlling P.'s left, felt the mass on the table. Movements were heard on the table, main red light then on for five minutes; this was followed by varying periods of darkness and red light—and occasionally by red torch only. At these lighter periods we observed the object lying on the table. It appeared to vary in form, as if the thing was one mass which changed its shape; to F. H. and Mr. A. it appeared as if fingers were not visible at times, but the whole mass was fused together like molasses candy; to Mr. D. and Mrs. H. it looked like different poses of the same object (to F. H. it was molten, to Mr. D. it was posed).

Mr. D., by permission, lifted the mass in his right hand and estimated it to weigh about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 ounces. Mrs. Hemenway was allowed to lift the mass in her two hands; it weighed 3 ounces to her, it was cold; it felt like a soft baby's hand which was fat, no feeling of bones. She lifted it in the main red light.

To Mr. Dingwall parts of the mass appeared colder and more clammy than other parts.

Mr. D. looked at mass through his magnifying glass. The skin-like surface showed cross marks like that of a very aged hand. Walter called attention to these markings three times with pride. He said: "This mass is really blood, the white corpuscles. When it goes back it strikes the heat and dissolves."

After exposure in all to red light 15 to 20 times, two photographs were taken 6 minutes apart. The first one was taken at end of a period of the main red light turned on continuously while Conant opened the cameras. At this period Mr. D. put his right cheek three times on the mass. It felt cool and dry like dessicated skin. The same period of red light was on during the flash-light. This was true of both exposures. Conant was also allowed to feel the mass in red light. The second photo was of the Walter hand, laid across Mr. D.'s right palm upwards—photographed during red light.

Psyche, after the photos, was very uneasy, complained (in trance) of abdominal discomfort and pain.

After second photo of object in Mr. D.'s hand, Mr. D. asked F. H. to keep Psyche's right hand away from object to see if it would detach itself by self-movement. This was done. Psyche turned in chair and object was pulled slowly out of Mr. D.'s hand as if pulled by Psyche's body. It then fell off Mr. D.'s hand on to her lap, and Mr. D. tried to follow it but was prevented by violent movements of the medium and by her placing her left leg on the table; her hand took his hand to outside of left leg away from the object.

Walter said he would then make a hand, but after 5-10 minutes try W. said further trial would probably bring haemorrhage and so interfere with next sitting. Psyche was weighed before and after sitting and lost 4 lb.

(Signed) E. J. DINGWALL.

HARRIET L. HEMENWAY.

J. FRED ADLER.

L. R. G. CRANDON.

In this sitting the observations were similar to those made the day before except that the control permitted much more free handling of the substance. It had the same appearance as before, and this time the cord seemed to me to have a different feeling from that previously experienced. It will be remembered how in Sitting IX. the cord appeared to swell when the object on the table moved. So in this sitting the cord changed its shape. Firstly it seemed ribbon like and then round, just as if some substance was passing through it into the "hand." In order to try to discover whether this was indeed occurring I obtained permission to raise the hand from the table. It appeared to be a light skinny bag weighing about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  or 3 ounces. The skin was white and showed criss-cross markings, but Walter's description of the mass can scarcely be taken seriously. After the second photograph had been taken I determined to try an experiment in order to see whether it were possible to obtain a decisive test by the application of something

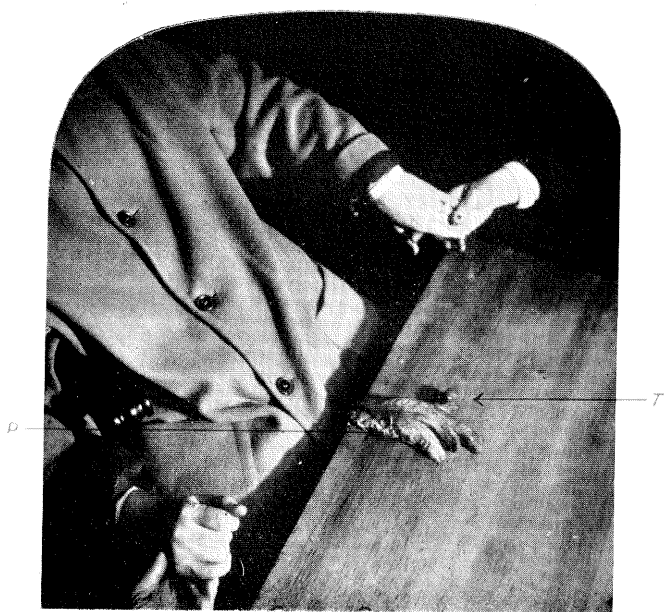


Fig. A.



Fig. B.



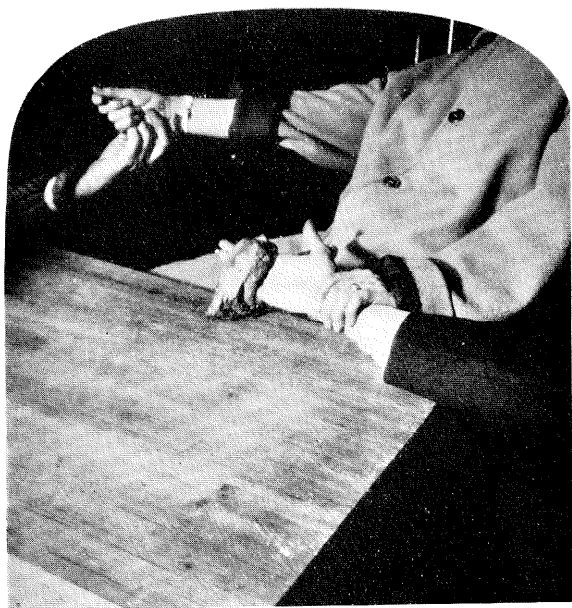


Fig. C.

PLATE III

more than mere persuasion. The complete dematerialisation of materialised hands within the hands of the observer has been reported so frequently with other mediums that it seemed to be a good opportunity to try in this case. I therefore requested F. H. to keep the medium's hand away from the object and myself secured the "hand" in my left hand. The medium at once began to turn in her chair and the mass was pulled out of my hand. It seemed simply an elastic bag and crumpled up as it was pulled away. I tried to follow it when it fell into the medium's lap, but she resisted strenuously, throwing her left leg on to the table and forcing my hand away from it with her own. Another crucial test had failed completely.

I print three photographs to illustrate this sitting. (Plate III, Figs. A, B, C). Fig. A shows the "hand" lying upon the table taken by a stereoscopic camera to the right of the medium; Fig. B is the same taken from the left; and Fig. C is a view of the "hand" lying over my hand. These results are exceedingly interesting. In Fig. A we see a right hand with three fingers and part of a bent thumb curled round towards the left, T. It appears made of wrinkled skin, and on the right side on the part nearest the edge of the table are little pits or depressions on the surface resembling the cut-tube-like appearances noticed before, P. Plate III, Fig. B shows the hand as seen from the left. This time the thumb appearance is seen to be composed of what is presumably meant to be a thumb and third finger. Crudely formed nails are clearly visible upon both thumb and finger. The beginning of cord is seen hanging over the side of the table, the substance being rounded and seeming to dip downwards sharply as it drops over the edge. At the base of the thumb is another crater-like depression like that seen in the first photograph, and the markings are more knobby and uneven.

The third photograph (Plate III, Fig. c) shows the hand limply lying over the fingers of my outstretched hand. Instead of having a solid and substantial appearance it is flaccid and shrivelled exactly as if it had been deflated. The depression seen in the second photograph towards the

right hand portion of the hand is clearly visible, and the whole appearance is one of deadness and entire absence of vitality. Indeed, the photographs strikingly confirm what touch had already suggested, namely, that we have here a dead unanimated structure which, if endowed with vitality borrowed from its creator, exhibits no signs of such life under close inspection and touch.

After the sitting on February 5, and during the hours following the events of the same day, I had impressed very forcibly upon F. H. and Margery the extreme desirability of having test conditions for at least a few sittings, especially for experiments with the materialisations. F. H., however, was of the opinion that there would be no more materialisations for the present, and his opinion seemed so positive that I could scarcely conceal my surprise. I had, however, noticed before that both F. H. and Margery seemed to be aware when materialisations were to be expected, and this fact seems important in view of the second hypothesis. The reason doubtless alleged for this prior knowledge is that the control tells them what to expect, but the control often promises phenomena which never occur, so that the reasonable position would seem to be of expectancy and anticipation rather than confidence. However that may be, F. H., both on February 6 and 7, broadly hinted that the materialisations were over and should not be essayed out of regard for the medium's health. It is true that during this period Margery appeared ill and depressed, but I had hoped that by February 9 she would be well enough to start a series of sittings in the Hemenway home at which F. H. would not be present. The sitting, XXVI, on February 6 was entirely negative, as was also that, XXVII, held the next day, February 7. On February 9 Margery still complained of being unwell, and I had to cancel the sitting for that night. The end of my visit was now approaching, so I preferred that we should hold two sittings in Lime Street, at which Margery should sit in her accustomed place and at which F. H. should not be present. I also proposed that she should wear the luminous bracelets and head disc as before, but that I should control both her hands

and feet, and that on the table and on the floor around her should be placed objects, in order that we might try for telekinesis under similar, although not so strict, conditions as with Willy Schneider. The first of these sittings was on February 10.

*Sitting XXVIII. (Private).*

February 10, 1925. 10 Lime Street. 9.10 p.m.

*Present:* Dr. Mark Richardson; D.

Dr. Richardson sat next to me and held my left arm with his right hand. His left hand was more or less free and he wore a luminous wristlet on his sleeve. I held both Margery's hands and had my unshod feet upon hers. On the table were the tambourine, the spatula with luminous handle, and the two luminous rings. On Margery's right on the ground were the small megaphone standing on its larger end with the basket on the top of the smaller end; the ukulele and, at the back of the cabinet, the *Scientific American* bell box. On the medium's left towards the back of the cabinet stood the second small megaphone with a luminous band around it. The arrangements for this sitting were carried out in order to determine how far (if the first hypothesis be true) the mediumistic faculties of Margery were capable of overcoming the difficulties of a new control. For this purpose I had arranged the sitting for telekinesis only, and it will be seen how various objects which had been accustomed to be used during the entire series of the sittings had been placed round the medium in all directions.

At this sitting there were no phenomena whatever, the sitting closing about 9.45 p.m. The result was exceedingly disappointing. The complete absence of the voice phenomenon was noticeable and regrettable, since my close position would have enabled me to discover with some degree of assurance the place from which it was directed. Not one of the several objects which were on the table and floor were moved, and even if this had been done under the conditions obtaining it would scarcely have been considered entirely conclusive. The medium, however, was unwell, and perhaps this may account for the total failure.

*Sitting XXIX. (Private).*

February 11, 1925. 10 Lime Street. 8.50 p.m.

*Present*: Dr. Mark Richardson; Mrs. Hemenway; D.

The same arrangements obtained at this sitting as those on February 10. Mrs. Hemenway held my left arm and Dr. Richardson her left hand. The séance was a complete failure. The medium complained of headache and left the room at 9.20 with nausea. Thus, whatever may be the reasons, the two sittings which were held under conditions similar to, although not equalling in rigidity those employed with such a medium as Willy Schneider, were total failures. The voice was not heard and there was no telekinesis; there was not even a rap. This was the last sitting I had with Margery. The next day I had planned to go with Margery and Mrs. Hemenway to Harvard in order to try a few psychological tests which I thought might be helpful. I wanted to see how the medium re-acted to the psycho-galvanic reflex, and my friend, Mr. G. H. Esterbrooks, had very kindly consented to be present and take the readings. When Mrs. Hemenway and I arrived we found Margery ready to start, but she informed us that F. H. had expressed his strong disapproval of her visit and she would not therefore come. The experiments, therefore, had to be cancelled, and the incident constitutes one of the very few examples of suggestions made by observers which were met by flat refusal on the part of either F. H. or the medium. On February 13 I left Boston *en route* for England.

### CONCLUSIONS.

Having completed this survey of my sittings with Margery, it only remains to sum up my conclusions.

I have tried to show in the preceding pages what plan was followed during the investigation. I was not prepared then, and I am not prepared now, to treat every medium as a rogue and a charlatan, although I am fully aware that many mediums merit both those names. The methods I adopted succeeded to the extent that phenomena occurred hitherto unrecorded in mediumistic history.

Now, as I have already said, this apparent success

may be due to two causes: Firstly, it may have been a real result of the application of a method which as regards this medium was new; or secondly, it may have been but a pseudo-progress cunningly arranged according to a pre-conceived scheme. However that may be, the resulting phenomena were unique in many respects. How is it, then, that they did not in the end inspire in me complete confidence?

Now, in the Margery sittings, as I have already said elsewhere, the first hypothesis was held just as long as seemed to me justified by my observations. Then it was wholly discarded for the second, I think rightly, when we consider all the relevant circumstances. But, it may be asked, what observations were made which led me to discard the first hypothesis? What justification have I for dictating what ought, or ought not to happen, or what sort of appearance any specific phenomenon ought to have? Now, the answer to this question depends upon the conditions to which the objector refers.

Suppose that I say that I am a medium and, sitting at a table in a dark room, put a sponge upon the table, telling my sitters it is teleplasm. Or to take an even more extreme instance, suppose that by some marvellous dexterity I place the sponge on the table in full light. Now, the only methods by which my sitters can investigate that sponge are methods of comparison. The rules of the game forfeit any cutting, or seizing, or forcible handling. The thing looks like sponge, feels like sponge, and acts like sponge, but can we say that it *is* sponge. It is clear that we cannot, but are we not justified in supposing that it is until some quality is revealed which demonstrates the inapplicability of the term *sponge* to the object on the table? Thus, if the sponge-like substance dissolved and was re-formed before our eyes, taking definite shape and form, then we would hesitate before saying that it was a sponge, although it might be an object like a sponge possessing these strange attributes. We neither know what teleplasm is nor what it may resemble. For all we know teleplastic formations (if they exist at all) *may* be just like sponges, white paper, chiffon, lungs, or rubber bulbs.

But this circumstance, if true, renders interpretation exceedingly hard. For how can we tell that some teleplastic chiffon may not be real chiffon and a teleplastic sponge a real sponge? We cannot tell unless certain tests are made, and the great majority of these tests are forbidden. It therefore appears that the comparative method is alone available, and it is precisely by this method that I was forced to the conclusion that the teleplastic products shown by Margery exhibited none of these qualities which one would have thought that they would have shown. If it be urged that we have no right to expect anything, then the only answer would seem to be that it is idle to attempt to distinguish the genuine from the simulated, and that it would be more profitable to turn one's attention to some subject less exasperating.

Apart, however, from all questions of probability, have we any definite, fully substantiated data which may help us in arriving at a conclusion? I do not think that we have anything so important as this. I might quote a dozen incidents which favour the second hypothesis, but at the same time I could quote another dozen favouring the first. Perhaps the one great point which supports the second hypothesis is that the phenomena witnessed by me could, I think, be duplicated by normal methods, as I have tried to indicate in the main body of this paper. When one sees an experiment at a magical entertainment one can easily satisfy oneself with some sort of attempt at describing its *modus operandi*. It does not necessarily follow that it is the *modus operandi* used by the performer, but if it has been thought out with any careful attention to detail, it will furnish the thinker with at least *one* method of producing the effect. So in my attempts at pointing out the normal methods, all that I can claim to do is to indicate the sort of methods I should myself use if I were to attempt to duplicate the phenomena described. Probably, if the phenomena were due to trickery, the actual methods used were simpler than those suggested. At any rate, they show, I think, that there is some normal explanation, should the phenomena prove to have been simulated. This point is the chief one which marks

the case off from such cases as that of Willy Schneider or Palladino. For in these cases a normal explanation covering the main body of their phenomena seems to me to be lacking. I cannot conceive *any* normal explanation for what has been observed; and it is precisely for this reason that in these two cases I adopt the first hypothesis as opposed to the second, although I am always ready to change my hypothesis if sufficient facts are brought to my notice which would seem to justify it. If the phenomena of Margery occurred under the same controlled conditions as those with Schneider and were *then* proved to be fraudulent, I should abandon any further investigation of the physical phenomena. It is precisely because I am at a total loss to describe the Schneider phenomena in normal terms at all that the first hypothesis seems to me to be reasonably justified as regards his work. It was because I endeavoured (and failed) to secure the consent of F. H. and Margery to try for the production of teleplastic phenomena *inside the cage*, that my mind began to turn towards the possibility of the second hypothesis. The reasons given by F. H. for his opposition were so totally inadequate, and the conditions he rejected so satisfactory from the evidential point of view, that I could not fail to ask myself whether F. H. knew that the teleplastic products which flapped about so gamely when hands were available would cease their gambols when those hands were controlled. The opportunity was so golden that the attitude of F. H. seemed to me inexplicable except upon one hypothesis. Similarly, the startling<sup>1</sup> changes of January 20 following the brilliant successes of the previous experiments, could scarcely fail to suggest that the self-mobility of the substance was non-existent. The one fact which stands out clearly in favour of the first hypothesis is undoubtedly the personality and position of Margery and her husband, and the improbability of their engaging in persistent trickery. Apart from this, what remains to support the reality of the phenomena? I have no satisfactory answer, but hasten to add that my inability to furnish one has

<sup>1</sup> I refer to the decided change both in the production of the substance and its movements when displayed. (See p. 135.)



not yet persuaded me to accept the second hypothesis with all its implications.

Since we have now discussed in a general way the various problems in this case which clamour for solution, perhaps I may be allowed to point out a few comparisons that can be drawn between the teleplastic products as exhibited in the photographs and the normal structures of the animal organism. It will be remembered that it was suggested by Professor McDougall that the "hands" exhibited certain points of similarity with the structure of animal lungs, the appearance marked Tr in Plate I, Fig. A, suggesting strongly part of the trachea, showing as it does signs of rings which, as I have already said, might be interpreted as the cartilaginous rings present in that part of the animal anatomy. Similarly the appearance of the surface suggests something analogous to lung tissue, and the smell of the substance which, according to Dr. Worcester, resembled the smell of the entrails of a freshly killed animal, pointed in the same direction. However that may be (and there is no certainty about the matter), the points of resemblance between the teleplastic hands and certain parts of the animal organism are worthy of some attention. For purposes of comparison, Dr. V. J. Woolley has prepared a crude hand from calf's lung (see Plate IV, Figs. A, B, C).

Plate IV, Fig. A is the lung hung against a white background for the sake of comparison. The surface of the left hand "finger" especially towards the tip should be compared with the lower side surface of the forefinger of the "hand" seen in Plate I, Fig. A; and in the same plate the trachea, Tr, should be noticed, with which compare the trachea seen on Plate IV, Fig. B. Plate IV, Fig. C, should be compared with Plate III, Fig. A. The orifices seen on the upper portion of the lung closely resemble the similar appearance on the right hand side of the "hand" on the table, and also the same orifices are visible upon the other unpublished photographs. The fact that these and other resemblances appear does not, of course, prove that the objects are what they resemble. Supernormal growth may closely resemble normal growth. But the fact that if not supernormal



Fig. A.



Fig. B.

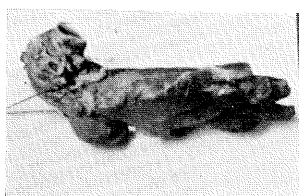


Fig. C.

PLATE IV

they would require for their production the kind and degree of manipulative skill acquired by hands accustomed to the handling of the human anatomy cannot be disregarded when we remember that F. H. is a skilful surgeon. What conceivable motive there can be for the fraud (if fraud it were) beyond that of testing the sustained credulity of psychical researchers I am at a loss to imagine. *Populus vult decipi*, and there is no particular importance in showing it. The importance would be in the deception of different observers of a high degree of competence by a medium consenting to sit under the most rigid test conditions. Apart from these considerations, the mediumship remains one of the most remarkable in the history of psychical research. It may be classed with those of Home, Moses and Palladino as showing the extreme difficulty of reaching finality in conclusions, notwithstanding the time and attention directed to the investigation of them.

NOTE BY PROFESSOR WILLIAM McDOUGALL.

[The following note is taken from a letter from Professor McDougall to Mr. Dingwall, dated May 28, 1926, in reply to an invitation to add any comments which might be thought desirable.]

There is only one point of some slight importance in which, so far as I have noticed, my notes and recollections do not quite tally with your account, namely in regard to the sitting Jan. 9 [pp. 115 *seq.*]. I recall fairly confidently that the forehead luminous disc was displaced *before* all three of the occasions on which I controlled for a few seconds the right hand of Margery as well as F. H.'s left hand. . . . The disc, you will remember, became visible to me and at least one other at the moment the third movement of the ring concluded and was seen retreating upwards from the table. I have described this in my article in the *A.S.P.R. Journal* [June, 1925, pp. 300, 301]. Its importance is that these three occasions were the only ones upon which the teleplasm seemed to move (*i.e.* more than a very slight withdrawal due to pull on the cord) when M's [Margery's] right hand was controlled; and the movements of the teleplasm are the only grounds for regarding it as supernatural. . . .

(Signed) W. McDOUGALL.

*Note by Mr. Dingwall.*—My own memory is not clear on the point raised by Professor McDougall, but I recollect that he mentioned what he had observed soon after the sitting.

## APPENDIX

## NOTE BY DR. L. R. G. CRANDON

10 LIME STREET,  
BOSTON, MASS., May 21, 1926.

MR. DINGWALL has been so good as to send me proof-sheets of his paper (*Proceedings*, June, 1926) concerning the "Margery" mediumship. It is based on his experiences in Boston, U.S.A., in January and February, 1925, and is therefore unfortunately "out of date." Control since then has been by wire lashings in a glass cabinet. When Mr. Dingwall was here, however, he had whatever control he requested. He has now been so kind, also, as to permit me to "add any comments that I may desire printed in an appendix."

Mr. Dingwall comments on his own paper thus: "Those who have read it have all come to different opinions as to the real views of the author." If the purpose of the Society and its funds be to remain in a ludicrous position of straddling, in order always to be right, it is here fulfilled. This fear of hoax and fraud, which is the sole idea established by the report, is the sad mental miscarriage sired by the ever discreet M'Dougall. What an unworthy contrast do we here behold to the courage and self-respect of Richet, Géléry and Schrenck-Notzing! The Research Officer had the opportunity of being the official discoverer of the outstanding physical mediumship of modern history, but he "had eyes and saw not."

The inaccuracies, in fact, are so many that it is futile to attempt to list them. The "Margery" mediumship, as always, is ready to stand or fall on the notes made at the time and signed by all sitters. The modern laboratory method has no place for afterthoughts or "facts" made to help out an hypothesis.

The old Biblical sage wistfully remarked: "Oh, that mine enemy would write a book." He knew, as well as we, that when a man starts to write on a subject which contains any controversial element whatever, then the chances are rather more than even that the result will be something extremely vulnerable or patently ridiculous. When Mr. Dingwall thus analyzes the "Margery" phenomena it is obvious that he must reason as follows:

(a) If I pronounce these phenomena genuine and they are thereafter admitted by the scientific world to be genuine, I am, as a psychical research officer, instantly *functus officio*.

(b) If I pronounce these genuine and "Margery" or F. H. are afterwards found to have produced all these effects normally, then I shall be laughed out of the psychic arena as a credulous yokel.

(c) Therefore, I will posit "hypothesis I" supporting supernormal origin, and "hypothesis II" pointing to a fraudulent origin, then balance myself with exquisite orientation between the two so that in whichever direction the psychic cat may jump I shall be there. Could any course be more prudent or more ingenious?

From start to finish Mr. Dingwall has not produced one scintilla of probative evidence that the "Margery" phenomena are not supernormal. He has propounded a multitude of theories of infinite variety as to how these things might have been done normally. I have a better theory still. An accomplice small in stature, clothed and hooded all in black, with felt slippers on, could wheel in a tea-wagon with well oiled rubber wheels. It would contain "a rod" (p. 100), "a piece of apparatus to be held between the teeth" (p. 100), "a half-dozen different objects covered with a substance" (p. 105), "forceps" (p. 106), "a glove-like sheath" (p. 106), "forceps covered with animal substance covered with saliva" (p. 106) (possibly an extra dish of saliva in case the first should dry too soon), "a piece of same cut into disc shape" (p. 106), "several pieces cut like sheeps' tongues" (p. 106), "a round mass of same possibly inflated" (p. 106), "a rudely formed hand of same" (p. 106), "a tube" (p. 107), "a cord of animal gut" (p. 114), "a bulb" (p. 114), "a bag-like structure" (p. 114), "a nozzle" (p. 122), "a long hair with wax on it" (p. 140).

No matter how good the control of "Margery" and myself, the show would triumphantly proceed, unless a cold in the head should cause the accomplice to sneeze! Q.E.D. In reality there is not one debatable point raised by Mr. Dingwall which has not in the past year been resolved in favour of supernormality. Under conditions of control, more severe than any suggested by Mr. Dingwall, evidence has been amassed to a degree unsuspected by him. I have no space here to detail it. Some of the later developments such as described in the *Journal* of the American S.P.R. are known to Mr. Dingwall. A patient awaiting of scientifically collated results, would, I think, have been wiser than his present excursion into the realm of fanciful hypothesis, which excursion is, to use Mr. Dingwall's own phrase, "highly curious and intriguing." I am tempted, using the words in a purely Pickwickian sense, to lay down two hypotheses to explain Mr. Dingwall's treatment of the subject as far as hypothetical explanation goes.

Hypothesis I. The author is a nut.<sup>1</sup>

Hypothesis II. The author is a nut.

"The evidence seems to me at one time for and at one time against" one or the other of these hypotheses, but I am consoled by the fact that ultimately Mr. Dingwall will, like the honest investigator which he is, both know and declare that in the "Margery" case we are dealing with genuine supernormal phenomena. Till that time, all of us must be patient.

L. R. G. CRANDON.

<sup>1</sup> This is an American word meaning an amiable individual whose ratiocination is erratic.

## REVIEW.

MR. HUDSON HOAGLAND'S "Report on Sitzings with Margery."  
*Atlantic Monthly*, November 1925.

THE 'Margery' problem, elsewhere amply dealt with in the present volume, is one of such constantly shifting scenes that it is almost impossible to keep pace with its development. We have first the operations of the committee of the *Scientific American*, who, after something like 90 sittings, arrived at conflicting conclusions: the majority negative, the minority positive regarding 'Margery's' claim to supernormal faculties. We then have Houdini's 'exposure,' the accuracy and method of which appears disputed by at all events some of the above-mentioned majority. Next, Mr. Dingwall's series of experiments, and his Report, now issued, from which it appears that circumstances led him to box the compass of most opinions and to end with none. Then Mr. Bird's book, which, however it may be open to criticism as regards details, yet unquestionably puts up a claim for the occurrence of certain phenomena not lightly to be dismissed. Then at last, in November, there appeared in the *Atlantic Monthly* an article by Mr. Hudson Hoagland, a member of a committee of young Harvard graduates, with which was associated a casual sprinkling of miscellaneous scientists, which, taken at its face value, certainly seemed to give the death-blow to 'Margery's' claims as a medium. An analysis of this Report, in conjunction with later developments, shows, however, that the end is not yet, and that before these claims can be regarded either as established or scotched beyond reasonable question, a much more authoritative verdict must be awaited. In short, the Report, somewhat magniloquently described by the *Atlantic Monthly* as 'the Climax to a Famous Investigation,' is not a climax at all.

I confess I do not share the view, which has elsewhere been freely expressed, that by virtue of their youth and inexperience in psychical investigation the Harvard committee was incompetent to undertake it. On the contrary, from the full notes of the experiments now published in a pamphlet entitled *Margery, Harvard, Veritas* (Blanchard Printing Co., Boston, 1926) by a group of 'Margery's' supporters, and which claim to appear "absolutely as written and signed,"<sup>1</sup> it would seem that not only were the intentions of the committee both serious and honest, but the conditions which they imposed or attempted to carry through were well considered and their tests ingenious and effective. It is rather the behaviour of the committee, or certain members of it, towards one another and towards 'Margery' and her husband, and the almost preposterous conclusions to which they arrive, which lead one to doubt their competency, and which are so surprising as to leave one with a conviction that, in order to make the whole story at all *vraisemblable*, we must supply some fact or motive hitherto undisclosed and one which, if known, may go to the root of the whole matter.

I have, before writing this, had the advantage of reading Mr. Bird's review of the Hoagland report in the December *Journal* of the American S.P.R., to which I would refer readers who wish to get a more complete account of the facts. Mr. Bird, who as Secretary of the *Scientific American* Committee, pronounced in favour of 'Margery's' mediumship and has since ranged himself wholeheartedly with her supporters, was obviously in a difficulty when dealing with Mr. Hoagland. Making all allowances for his position, his review is, to my mind, an exceedingly able and fair-minded production. I see that he arrives at the same conclusion that I had independently come to, that we have not been told the whole of the story.

And now for the story itself. Mr. Hoagland described how during the latter part of Mr. Dingwall's visit he became acquainted with Dr. and Mrs. Crandon and, with some other Harvard friends, was admitted to sittings at their house. Though several of the party were frankly sceptical, the

<sup>1</sup>The accuracy of this claim has since been denied by the authors of the notes and, in reply, reasserted by the editors of the pamphlet.



Crandons welcomed their criticisms and suggestions, impressing them with the sincerity of their attitude, and readily acquiesced in their proposal to put the investigation on to a laboratory basis and to hold sittings at Harvard. Certain conditions were imposed. Sitters were not without 'Walter's' consent to touch or pull any teleplasmic arm, nor to use any light, white or red, during the sittings, nor to expect to use new methods, apparatus or controls. Dr. Crandon was to attend the sittings, but, subject to the exclusion of any internal medical examination of the medium, both he and she were willing to submit themselves to search. I do not find, however, in Mr. Hoagland's Report any reference to certain other important agreements which, as I learn from the various documents before me, were also made, *e.g.* that the signed notes of each sitting should be delivered to Dr. Crandon before the next sitting, and that if no suspicion of fraud is entered in these notes it shall be deemed non-existent. Nor do I find mention of the pledge to silence with which Mr. Bird says these young gentlemen pledged one another, and Dr. Crandon, and Mr. Bird himself, and everybody else concerned.

But to continue with Mr. Hoagland's story. They held six sittings at Harvard, beginning on May 19, 1925, and two at Mr. Hoagland's own house with the same group. It is not my intention to burden this notice with details of their experiments, for which readers should refer to the original documents already mentioned. It is enough to say that from the beginning the medium and her husband and, later on, all present wore luminous elastic bands on foreheads, wrists and ankles. Although Dr. Crandon attended the sittings and, except at the final sitting on June 30, controlled the medium on her right, he was himself also controlled by Mr. Hoagland, who "tactually and visually controlled Dr. Crandon's hands and Mrs. Crandon's right hand, as well as the Doctor's knees and head," establishing what was called 'double control'; and Mr. Hoagland stated that it was with this double control that most of the phenomena occurred. Another investigator was assigned the task of visual control of the feet (by means of the luminous bands), and a third that of the head bands. At most of the Harvard sittings there was an apparatus to pass an electric current through the entire circle of sitters

which instantly registered in the hall, where an observer was placed, if anyone broke the circle. In these circumstances phenomena resembling those familiar at the medium's own house occurred. "Apparently something resembling an arm, presumed to be teleplasm, came from the lower portion of the medium's body and moved objects within a radius of several feet of her. This terminal was silhouetted against the luminous surfaces of objects picked up [by it], and showed variations of shape from time to time." Weights were lifted which a spring balance—on which, on one occasion, the medium's chair was mounted—showed were added to the weight of her body. Sitters were touched by the teleplasm on the backs of their hands or heads; hair and clothes were pulled; small luminous objects were lifted; the bell-box, described in Mr. Dingwall's Report, was rung; and, in short, more or less the whole programme familiar to those who have read that Report was repeated. In addition, a coordinate board, 16 ins.  $\times$  24 ins., ruled off in inch squares by fine lines of luminous paint, was introduced in the course of the sittings with the object of getting 'Walter' to put his terminal out over this dimly luminous field and leave it, so that the coordinates could be read to the dictaphone and dimensional drawings of the silhouette could later be produced. Mr. Hoagland says that 'Walter' was most obliging in this respect, sometimes showing as many as three different structures on the board at once, though of these only one at a time was active, the others apparently being motivated by the active arm. This active arm was always moved rapidly over the board so that prior to the sitting of June 29 they were never able to get an adequate idea of its dimensions, except that it was long, reaching the full length of the board on occasion, that it tapered away from the medium and possessed a sort of crook or hockey-stick formation at the further end. The other objects varied in shape, and were described in the notes as starfish and general irregular forms, one very common shape, however, being that of a rectangle, rounded and somewhat pointed at the front end, and about eight inches long and two to three inches wide. The importance of this observation will be appreciated later on. The control exercised was dictated at the time to a dictaphone, and an examination of the notes

written out afterwards and signed shows that in almost every case this control, of both hands and feet, is reported as perfect.

We now come to the seventh sitting held at Mr. Hoagland's house on June 29th.

After a number of phenomena, including a long-drawn attempt by Walter to tie a knot in a rope, Mr. Code, one of the younger Harvard group, reported that the medium's right ankle band was off. 'Walter' denied this (untruthfully, as he admitted at the next sitting, explaining that he did so to prevent an explosion from a rude professor from the Middle West who was making a mock of the proceedings generally), and covered part of the complete luminous circle on the floor with something. A minute later 'Walter' called attention to the anklets. The left one seemed normal, but the right one slightly elongated as if over both instep and heel. 'Walter' said, "I can hide them from you any time I want," and proceeded to obscure most of the right anklet. The notes say: "It was clearly not the left foot that obscured the right anklet." At the end of the sitting both the bands were found on the feet round the instep and heel, but not round the ankles as at the beginning of the sitting.

After this came a levitation of the so-called 'doughnut,' a ring of luminous paper, which 'Walter' brandished near the face of the above-mentioned rude Middle West professor, who blew at it violently and caused 'Walter' to drop it from the end of his terminal. 'Walter' thereupon regained it, this time holding it more firmly, and insisted on the professor blowing again, which he did three or four times unsuccessfully. This indiscretion on the part of 'Walter' afforded Mr. Hoagland the opportunity he had long been wanting, since it gave him a fairly extensive silhouette of the terminal against the coordinate board as it held the doughnut in the air for some seconds. What he saw holding the doughnut appeared to be a human right foot, the toes clamped over the periphery of the disc, creasing it in a way verified on examining it afterwards. Further, by shifting his position, he clearly saw the ankle and leg silhouette to a point above the knee, and since the operation was successively repeated he was able to check his observations several times.

Immediately after the sitting, Mr. Code, who is said to be a clever magician, and whose suspicions were previously awakened by his observation of the dropped anklet, proceeded to give Mr. Hoagland and another sitter an imitation séance, with himself in the rôle of 'Margery.' Controlled in the same manner by these two, and with the anklets over his bare feet, he contrived, under an assumed trance restlessness, to remove his slippers and to take off the right anklet, covering the rear half of the band, which was luminous inside and out, with a slipper, giving the impression that it was still on his ankle. With his right foot now free, he proceeded to duplicate 'Walter's' various effects. He rang the bell-box, levitated the doughnut, pulled hair, untied Hoagland's shoe, and produced silhouettes on the coordinate board, even showing two terminals silhouetted at once, by the use of his leg and a slipper, which latter produced the same effect as that of the rounded rectangular object previously mentioned, which might, therefore, in its turn have been produced by the medium's slipper. With practice he even produced three objects at a time, the third being part of the dressing gown which he wore. Mr. Hoagland suggests that some of 'Walter's' shapeless objects could readily have been produced by a corner of the medium's dressing-gown. It is claimed that the effects of Code's leg-work produced phenomena identical with those of 'Margery' in so many incidental details, which I need not particularise, as to leave little doubt that similar means could have been employed by her. The inference obviously was that 'Margery' had done everything with her leg, and that the observer told off to watch her feet had been amazingly unsuccessful at his job. As it was, however, still arguable that it was her psychic and not her normal leg, the experimenters were willing to give 'Walter' another chance.

It is stated in the notes to the sitting which preceded Code's imitation that the bands used had been supplied by the observers, and that though the medium had complained that they were too loose and had attempted to tighten them with safety pins, the band's coming off was made possible by the carelessness of the observers. Also, that it was agreed that for the next sitting the medium should be asked to wear luminous bands of adhesive plaster instead of the old ones of

elastic tape. It may also be noted, in view of what followed, that there is an addendum by Professor Shapley, who now attended as a guest of the younger Harvard group, recording an understanding that every effort would be made to avoid publicity with regard to the investigations, to which the five members of the group appended their signatures, agreeing to the above understanding, among others.

They approached the next sitting with interest. If 'Margery's' leg was to be immobilized and no phenomena occurred, it would naturally be a strong confirmation of their hypothesis. Mr. Hoagland says that before the sitting 'Margery' herself complained that they had supplied her with inadequate bands on the previous occasion, and suggested the use of surgeon's plaster to prevent the bands from falling off. The first thing that happened was that 'Walter' showed an uncanny knowledge of what had happened after the last sitting, of Code's imitation of the phenomena and of the conversation generally. He then warned them to control the medium's feet not only by watching, but also by holding them, after which he proceeded, much to Mr. Hoagland's amazement, to produce what seemed to be his usual terminal and rang the bell-box. It soon appeared, however, that there was a marked difference between the 'teleplasm' of this evening and that of previous sittings. The silhouette showed long tapering fingers instead of the stubby formations formerly seen, and the reach was only about one-third of what it had been. Whereas previously 'Walter' had generally confined himself to touching the backs of hands or heads, he now readily allowed the sitters to *feel* his 'hand,' which was cold, moist and flabby, with fingers consisting of long, cordlike structures. It was also noticed that there were slight but distinct movements of 'Margery's' right hand correlating with the movement of 'Walter's,' leading to the inference that some artificial object was being manipulated by it, in spite of the presumed control of it by Code, who, in accordance with the arrangement come to the night before, had taken Dr. Crandon's place at 'Margery's' right. At one time there were two hands on the table, visible against the coordinate board, one being well formed, and the other being "a long extension shaped like a cat's tail." After one of these appearances it is reported in the

notes that Code's left hand, controlling 'Margery's' right, "has been on her right knee continuously." It is unnecessary to give further details, though I may note that at the end of the sitting Code reports that "Walter's farewell chuckle seems to be high above 'Margery's' head." I mention these two observations specifically because they seem to show that, in addition to falsifying the phenomena as will presently appear, Code must even have been falsifying the notes.

And now for the alleged explanation of all this. After the sitting, according to Hoagland, Code proceeded to confide to his associates that, following the sitting of the night before, when he thought he had solved the means of the production of the phenomena, "he began to look with concern at the human problems involved." He had formed a sincere friendship for both Dr. and Mrs. Crandon, who had at all times shown the utmost goodwill towards them all, as well as genuine faith in the phenomena, and he thought the most likely hypothesis was that the Doctor, at least, was sincere. He went further than this, and thought that Mrs. Crandon herself was also probably sincere, and he evolved a theory that, based on a genuine belief in spiritism, on the powerful unconscious suggestion of Dr. Crandon, on the psychic literature she had been reading, and under the influence of the circle of sympathisers, an artificial dramatic 'Walter' personality had been created, into which she would lapse casually, unremembered by her normal consciousness, both in and out of séances, thus causing her not only innocently, so far as her normal consciousness was concerned, to produce the phenomena in the séances, but also to prepare beforehand the artificial accompaniments and apparatus generally. Moved, therefore, by friendship for her and her husband, and in order to prevent a catastrophic exposure of the mediumship, he had visited Mrs. Crandon that afternoon, told her of their discoveries the previous evening and of their expectations for the forthcoming séance. (This, it will be seen, explained how 'Walter' had acquired his knowledge of what had happened at the imitation séance.) He then, confirmed in his belief by the conversation, decided to help Mrs. Crandon out. Though Hoagland says nothing of this in his Report, it seems, from the other documents before me, that Code claims to have adjourned with Mrs. Crandon to the

séance room at the top of the house and to have had a daylight séance at which he arranged with 'Walter' the procedure for the evening, and agreed to release 'Margery's' right hand to facilitate an alternative method for the production of the phenomena which had hitherto been produced by her leg.

And this is what he says that, unknown to his colleagues, he actually did. As a free hand alone is insufficient to account for what occurred, it is further necessary to suppose that other objects, felt and shown on the coordinate board, had been prepared beforehand, and concealed internally in such a way as to escape the search before the séance; for it is at all events not claimed that, in addition to putting her own arm at 'Margery's' disposal, he extended his courtesy so far as to offer the hospitality of his pocket for the disposal of these objects.

It is not only Code's conduct, to the strangeness of which I shall revert later, but also that of the rest of the committee which seems remarkable, if judged by ordinary standards. Notwithstanding the pledge of secrecy to which I have alluded, Mr. Hoagland prepared the Report which I am considering, in which he was assisted by Code under the belief that it was destined, not for publicity, but for a strictly scientific circle; and then, without the assent of his colleagues, proceeded to send it to a popular magazine. Code, to do him justice, protested against this, and promptly released Dr. Crandon from the pledge under which he too was bound not to publish the notes of the sittings which, superficially at all events, even down to the end, appear to be in 'Margery's' favour.

A reviewer unacquainted with the personalities in the case is at a great disadvantage when trying to appraise the value of the Hoagland Report. As Mr. Bird says, it is well done, and he admits that he does not see how, to one having no further source of information, it could be other than conclusive. I quite agree, but its full acceptance seems to me to depend on affirmative answers to the following questions:

(1) Is Code telling the truth about his interview with 'Margery' and his arrangements with her—or with 'Walter,' if one admits the validity of his theory of the complete dis-

sociation between these two—to collude in the phenomena at the last sitting?

(2) Was his imitation of the phenomena really as successful as claimed, and was it performed in the same conditions of control?

(3) Assuming the freedom of a leg in the first six sittings prior to that of June 29, could all the phenomena then manifested have been produced by it?

As regards the first question, if one has only Code's conduct and such poor evidences as he offers for the possession of even the glimmerings of common sense to go upon as credentials for his good faith, I should esteem the answer somewhat doubtful. The theory of the real innocence of mediums caught *flagrante delicto* is a favourite one among spiritualists, but while I am not prepared to deny that in certain cases, where no apparatus is used, it may, and probably has, some validity, I think that to apply it to such a case as this, where long, elaborate and skilful preparation is indispensable, argues an unsophistication of intellect, to put it mildly, which I can scarcely believe possible in a Harvard graduate. But apart from his capacity for reasoning, Mr. Code's ideas of the line of conduct demanded by friendship on the one hand, or loyalty to colleagues on the other, seem to be little less than pathologically peculiar. To save 'Margery' from an exposure he leads her—it must be assumed under a pledge of secrecy—into further fraud, and then immediately, that very night, splits on her. Further, by way of assisting his friends in their investigation, he stages an elaborate deceit in which he himself takes part, without a word of warning to them beforehand. Of course, Mrs. Crandon denies the whole story, and there is a suggestion of an undisclosed eavesdropper at the interview who confirms her denial. She admits that Code told her of the group's conclusions and offered to release her hand at the next sitting, and says that she indignantly declined. And that Mrs. Crandon would be so innocent as to walk into a trap laid so openly is, to judge by all one has heard of her extremely alert intelligence, at least as unbelievable as Code's theory of her sweet natural guilelessness if the phenomena are fraudulent. [C

The interview at which the collusion was arranged must indeed have been a strange one, for I find in the pamphlet



*Margery, Harvard, Veritas* a quotation from a letter from Code to the *Boston World* of October 25 to the following effect: "Margery never 'confessed' to me at any interview or sitting, private or public, nor did I ever say she did." It is difficult to understand how one can arrange to become an accomplice to a person who does not admit that she needs one. Mr. Code will, I presume, say that it was 'Walter' who confessed, not 'Margery.' So that one must suppose that after Mrs. Crandon had been charged with fraud, and denied it, she deliberately granted a daylight sitting to enable Code to make the same charge to 'Walter.' It seems on the face of it remarkably improbable. "People don't do such things," or if they do, there must have been some motive actuating either Mrs. Crandon's or Mr. Code's behaviour which wholly eludes the public.

As regards my second question, Mr. Bird tells us that he, too, had a two-hours' session with Mr. Code, in which the latter exhibited his mediumistic prowess. He says his reproduction of a certain part of the phenomena left little or nothing to desire, but that his attempts to reproduce others were a gross failure. For this, indeed, lack of long practice would normally account, but he says the failure was made worse by Code's complete lack of appreciation that he had fallen short.

And as regards my third question, it is quite impossible, as I have found in other cases, to judge of the feasibility of this or that effect from a written record. Mr. Bird is of opinion that even at the one séance at which he attended it would be necessary to suppose some other agency than a mere leg. How far his opinion is coloured by his other beliefs I have no means of judging.

To sum up: Mr. Bird, who says he has had close and cordial relations with Code for some months, confesses that it is extremely difficult for him to believe that either he or Mrs. Crandon is deliberately lying about this question of the interview. Yet, as he points out, one of them is obviously carrying a desperate lie to the last desperate ditch. For me, who am unable to judge of the personal equation, it is impossible to form any opinion on so delicate a question as to which is the culprit. The scales, of course, are heavily

balanced against a medium on her defence, while the only motive that can reasonably be ascribed to a departure from truth by any of the Harvard men is that which is indicated by 'Margery's' supporters, viz. that the scientific prejudice against an acceptance of this class of phenomena is so strong that their reputation and position at the University would be gravely imperilled by their endorsement of it. On this point, a statement by one of the group appears in the *New York Times* of March 4, 1926. He says: "Harvard, far from discouraging investigations, helped us all it could; its psychological department lent us a laboratory and agreed that Mrs. Crandon's mediumship might be treated as a subject for a possible doctorate thesis if results were obtained constituting a 'contribution to learning.'"

But it would seem that whether or not 'Margery,' like most other mediums, helps out her phenomena, if phenomena there are, by the use of her leg, and by the concealment about her of pieces of lung or other normal substances, her repertoire is of such a character that the Hoagland report is not likely to be accepted as definitive. She is now, according to latest reports, in order to meet the Hoagland criticisms, sitting in a closed and locked glass cabinet, with her hands emerging from holes at either side and bound with wire and sealed, and with her head and feet likewise bound and sealed within, and yet objects placed within are raised and moved in graceful circles high above her head. She also succeeds in overcoming the ingenious apparatus invented by Dr. Mark Richardson, details of which will be found in the highly interesting December number of the *Journal* of the American Society for Psychical Research, for rendering it impossible for her to use her own vocal organs during the production of 'Walter's' voice, thus apparently demonstrating the independence of this voice from the medium's. And until Houdini, who has now made it his business to expose by imitation the effects of all the best-known mediums in the United States, succeeds, *in the same conditions* (which seems not to be his invariable practice), in imitating these phenomena, judgment must, in my opinion, be suspended as regards the finality of the Hoagland Report.